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SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG

Archie
COMICS

SEGA®

ISSUE 255



COUNTDOWN
TO CHAOS!

PART THREE

ARCHIECOMICS.COM

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – A world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends work to save the world from the forces of evil!

SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG

PREVIOUSLY...

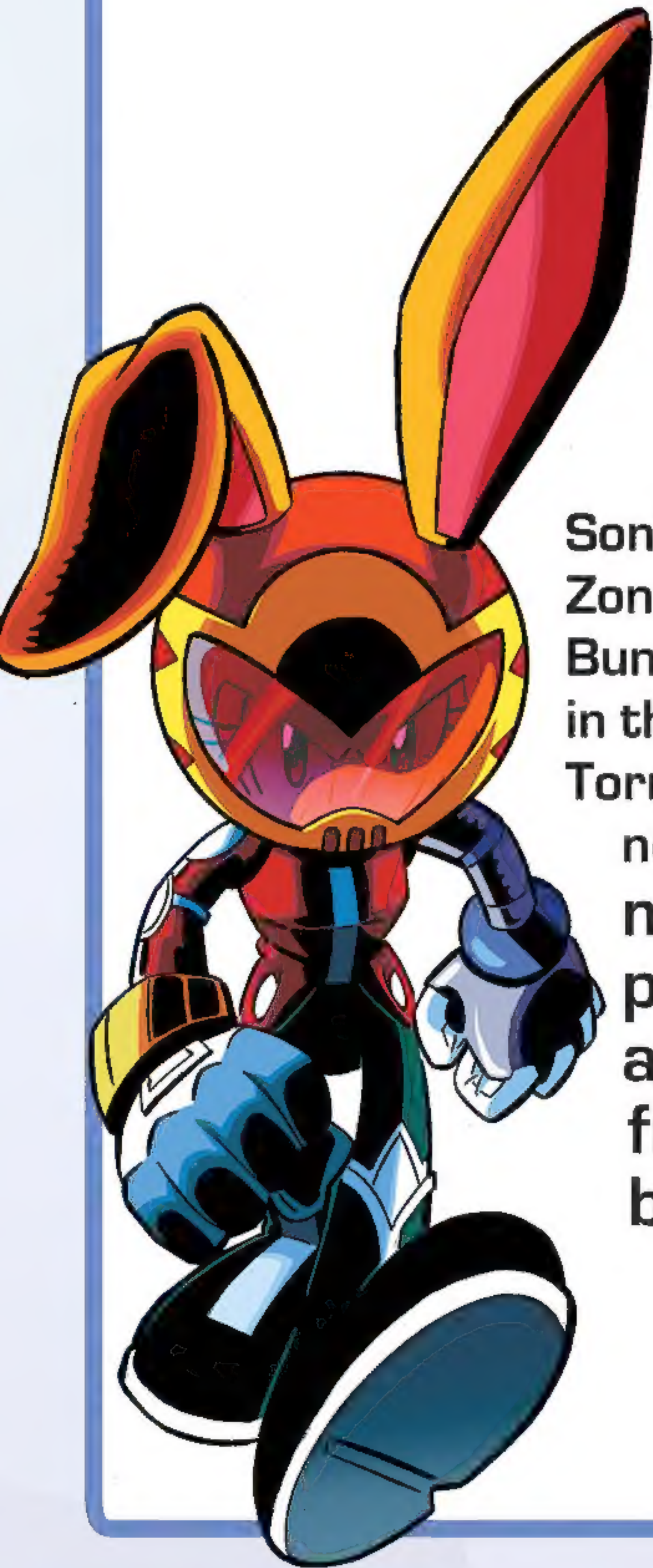


Sonic & Tails are on "Rabbit" Reconnaissance!

After foiling Dr. Eggman's plans, both Sonic and Eggman woke up back in their home world, but with new memories – and a new past, altered by the reality-warping Genesis Wave!

The artificial intelligence known as Nicole holds the key to what has happened, and by interacting with the heroic Freedom Fighters she has begun to "defragment" this new world. Tails, Rotor the Walrus and Antoine D'Coolette have all been revitalized with more on the way!

Sonic and Tails are now headed to Metropolis Zone to find their fellow Freedom Fighter, Bunnie "Rabbit" D'Coolette. As they fly high in the sky aboard the Tornado, neither Sonic nor Tails know of the monstrous power that is about to emerge from the world below...



WHO'S WHO



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
FASTEST THING ALIVE



MILES "TAILS" PROWER
SONIC'S BEST BUD



DR. EGGMAN
SONIC'S MAD SCIENTIST NEMESIS



???

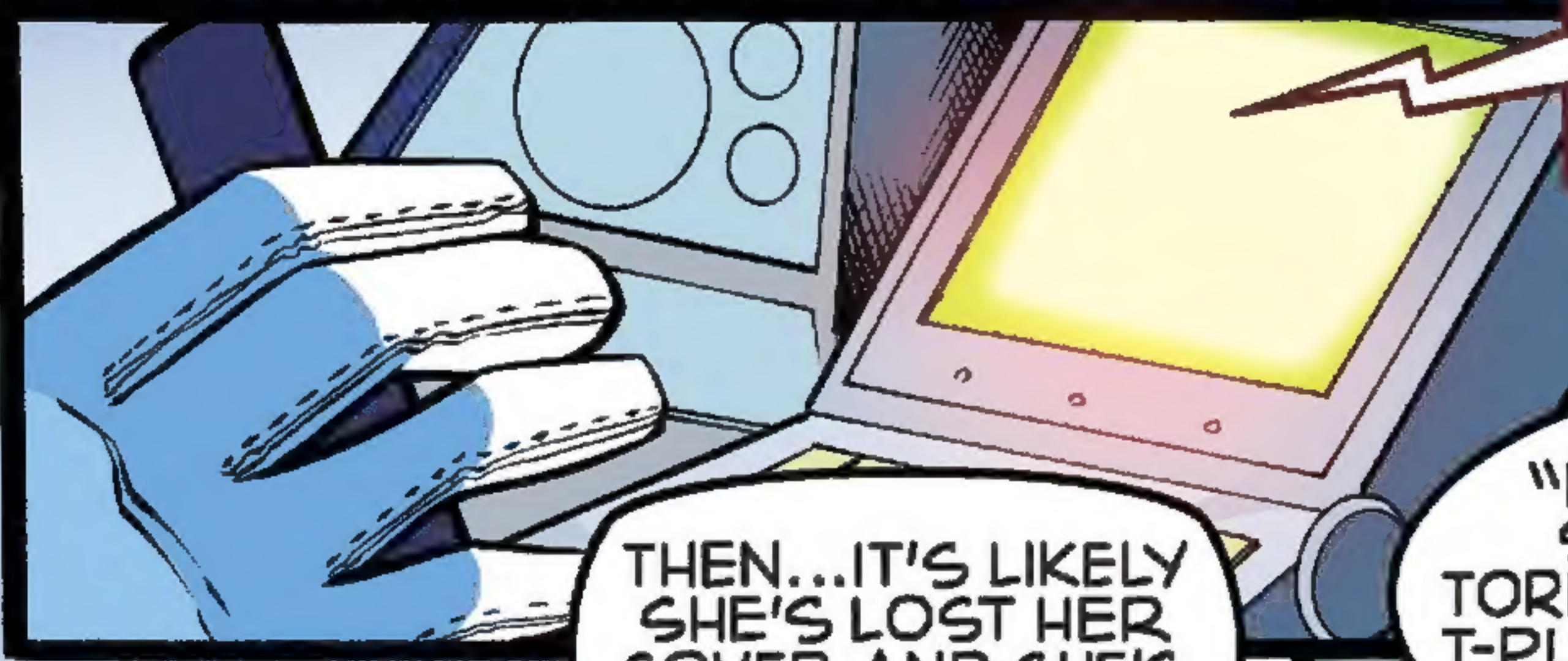
METROPOLIS ZONE,
IN THE SKIES ABOVE
WESTSIDE ISLAND...

LAST
CHANCE--ANY
WORD FROM
BUNNIE?

SONIC
COOL BLUE
HERO

NEGATIVE,
I CAN'T REACH
HER, AND SHE'S
NOT CALLED
→KZZT!←

NICOLE
LIVING
COMPUTER



THEN...IT'S LIKELY
SHE'S LOST HER
COVER AND SHE'S
BEEN CAPTURED.

"POLITELY ASK," HE
SAYS...KEEP THE
TORNADO OUT OF RANGE,
T-PUP. I'LL CALL YOU FOR
PICK-UP.

BARK-
BARK!

RIGHT, SO WE'LL
JUST HAVE TO GO
DOWN THERE AND
POLITELY ASK THE
THE EGG ARMY TO
LET HER GO.

T-PUP
TAILS'
ROBO-DOG

TAILS
YOUNG
GENIUS



COUNTDOWN TO CHAOS

PART THREE: THE RABBIT

VREEEE!

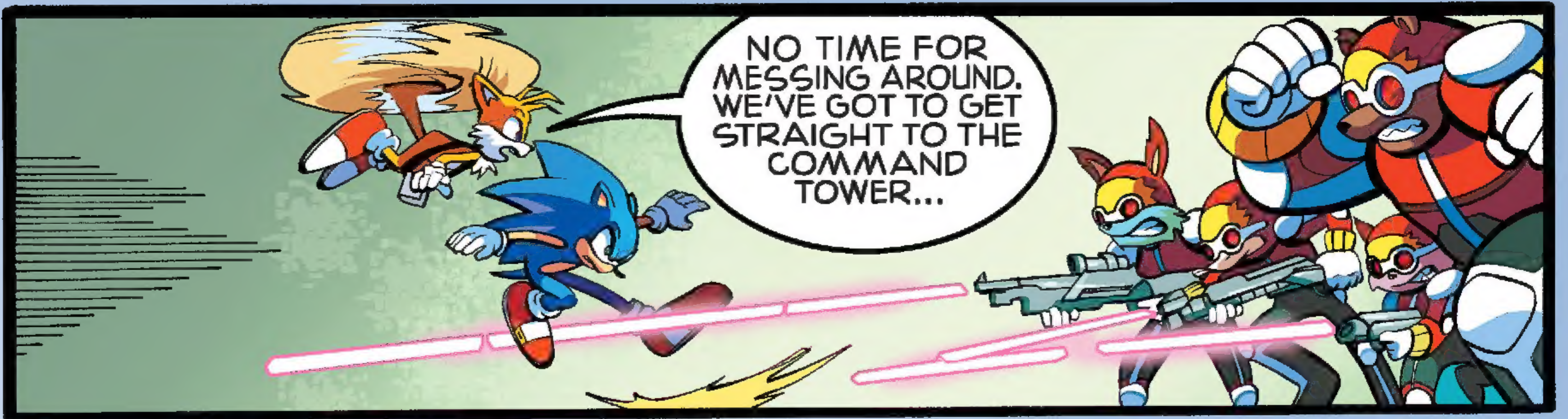
VREEEE!

VREEEE!

HAHAHA!
THINK THEY
NOTICED
US?

Writer: IAN FLYNN
Pencils: JERRY GAYLORD • Inks: KENT ARCHER
Colors: MATT HERMS • Letters: JOHN WORKMAN
Cover by BEN BATES • Variant Cover by TYLER CAPPS
with MATT HERMS

Assistant Editor: VINCENT LOVALLO
Editor/Executive Director of Editorial: PAUL KAMINSKI
Editor-in-Chief: VICTOR GORELICK • President: MIKE PELLERITO
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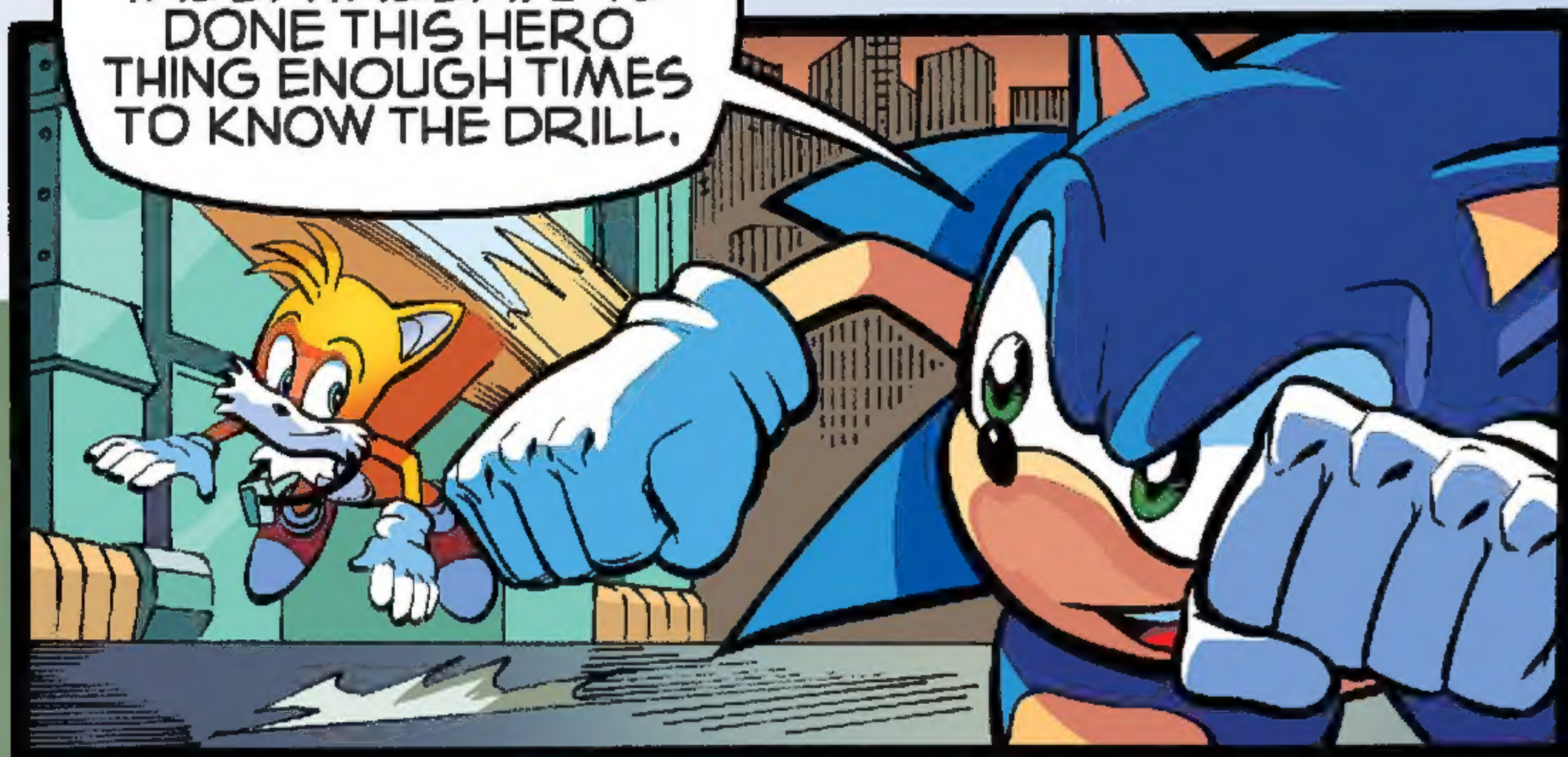


NO TIME FOR MESSING AROUND. WE'VE GOT TO GET STRAIGHT TO THE COMMAND TOWER...



VREEEE!

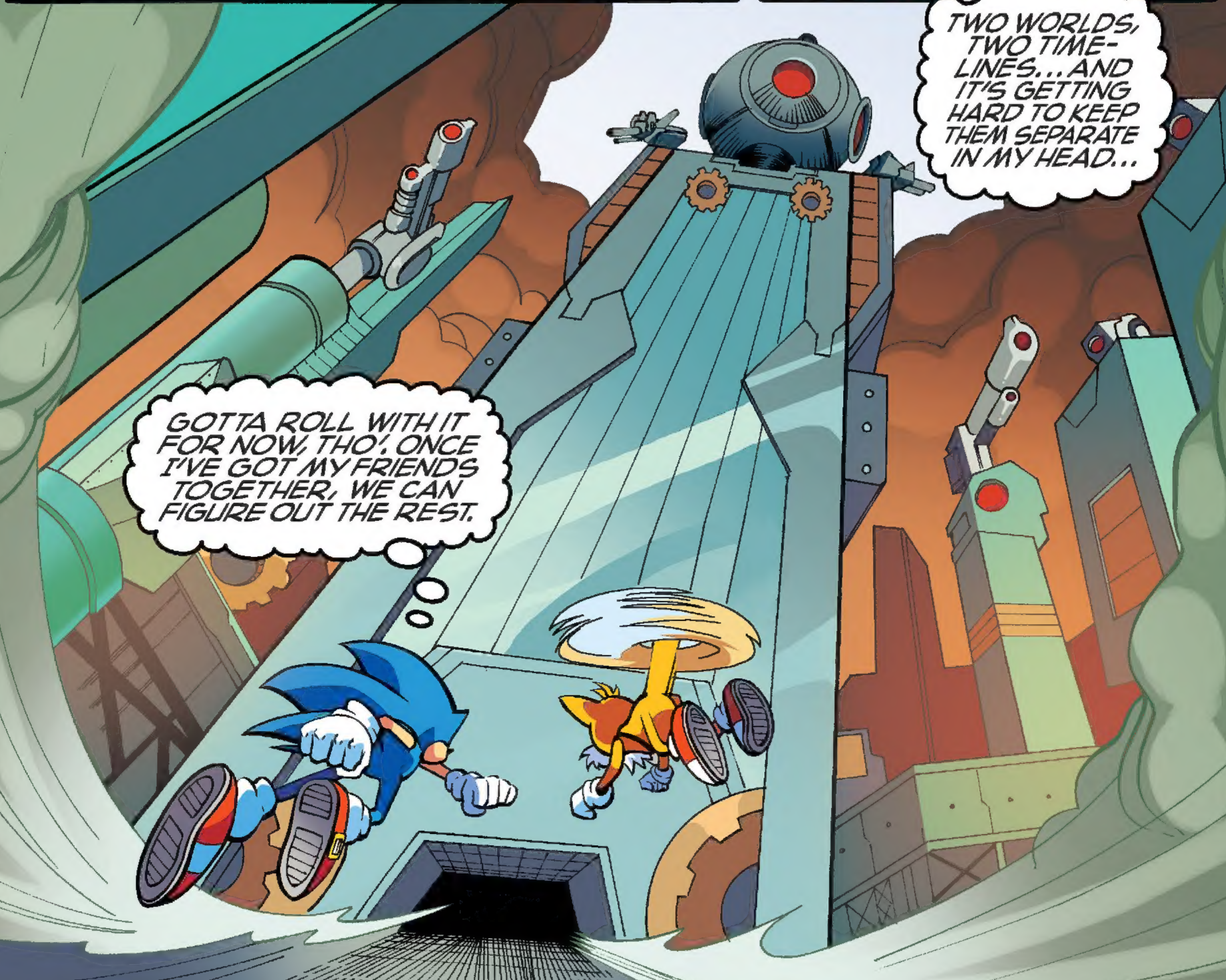
...AND FIND OUT WHERE SHE'S BEING HELD AND YADDA YADDA YADDA, I'VE DONE THIS HERO THING ENOUGH TIMES TO KNOW THE DRILL.



HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I DONE THIS?

TWO WORLDS, TWO TIME-LINES... AND IT'S GETTING HARD TO KEEP THEM SEPARATE IN MY HEAD...

GOTTA ROLL WITH IT FOR NOW, THO'. ONCE I'VE GOT MY FRIENDS TOGETHER, WE CAN FIGURE OUT THE REST.





HEY! YOU'VE GOT TASSELS. I BET YOU'RE IMPORTANT!

ACK! HOW'D YOU GET UP HERE SO FAST?!

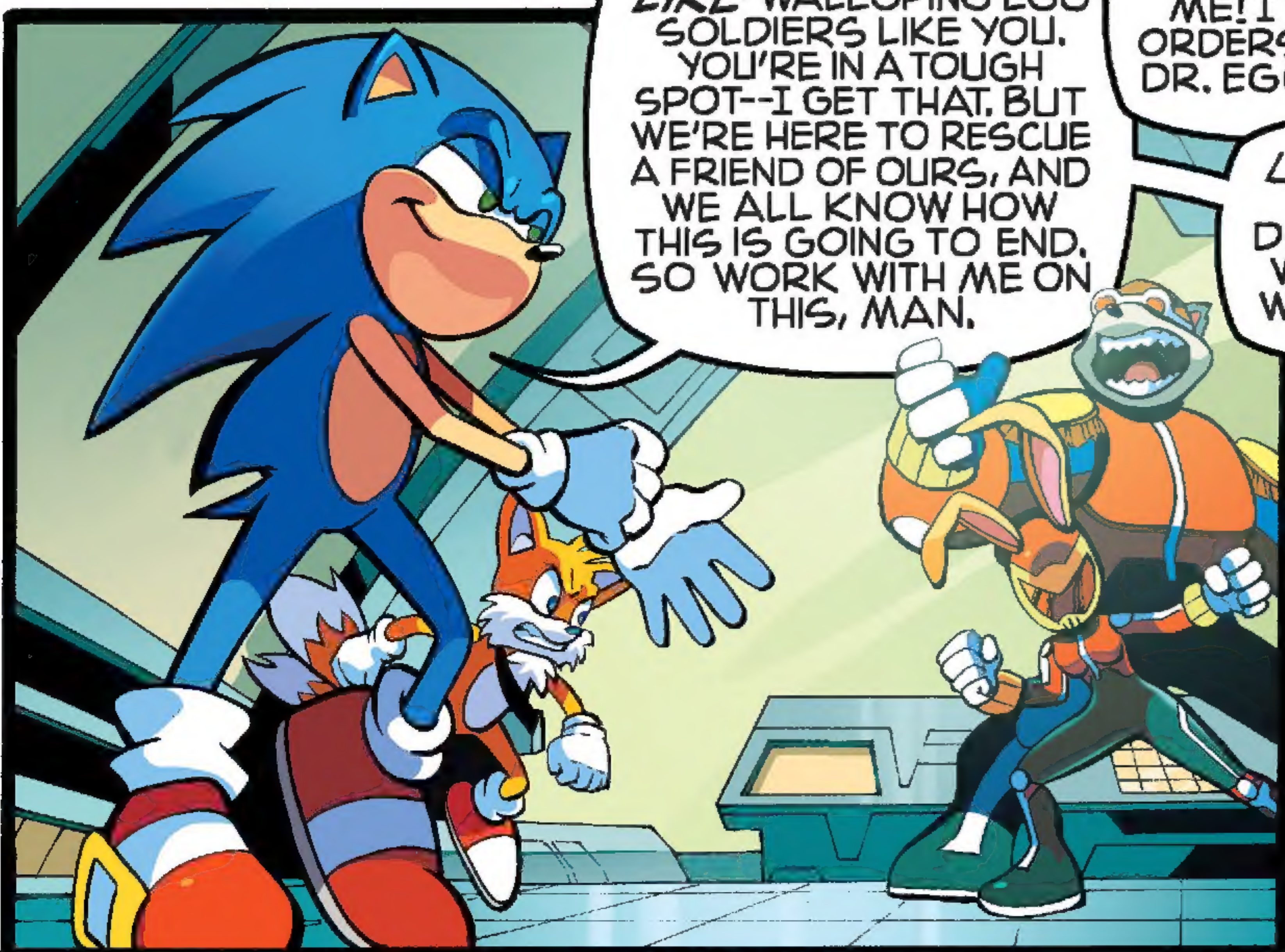
SOMEHOW YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF ME...?



LOCK US DOWN! THEY'RE NOT ESCAPING!



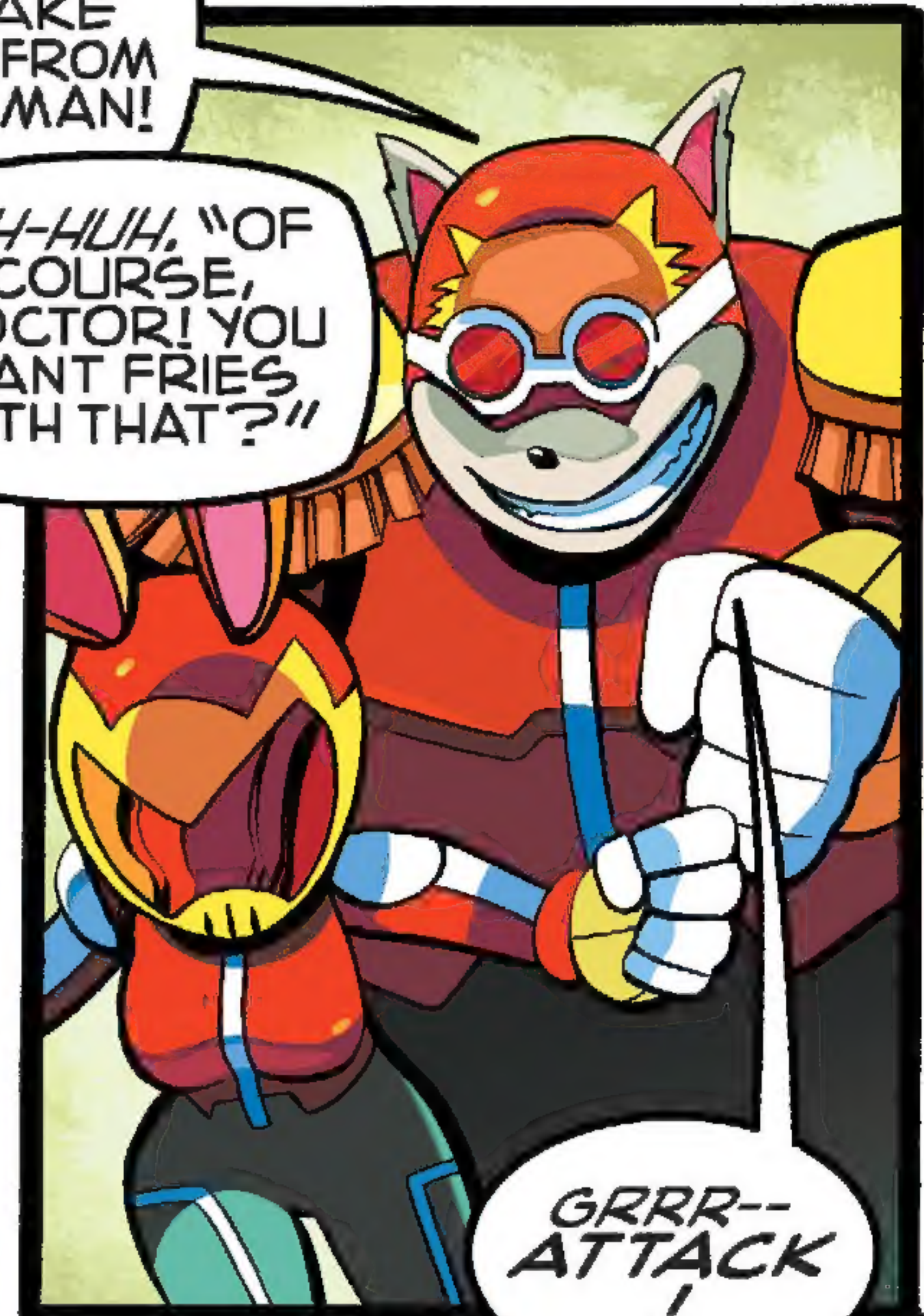
SHAKOOM!



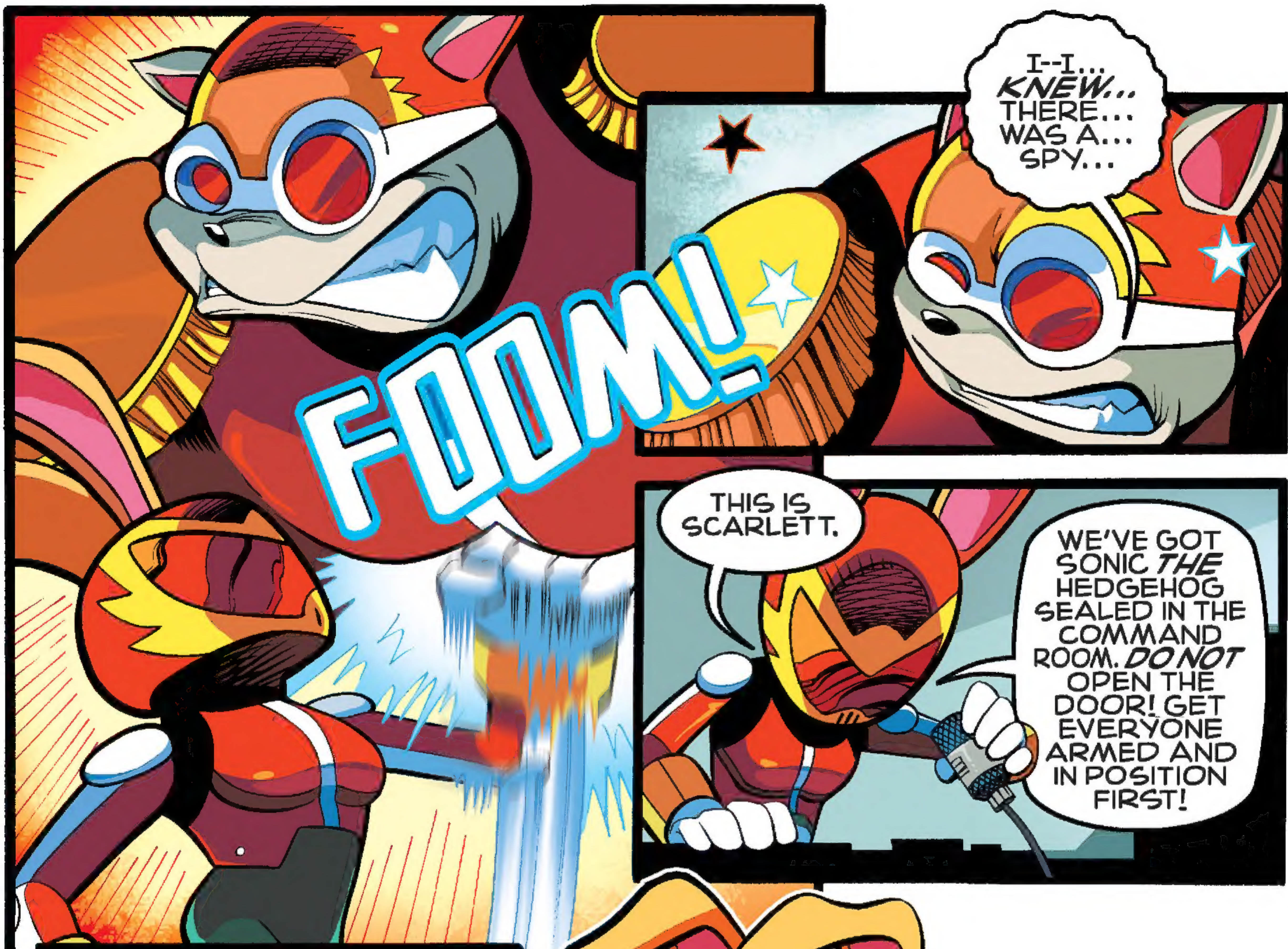
OKAY DUDE? I DON'T LIKE WALLOPING EGG SOLDIERS LIKE YOU. YOU'RE IN A TOUGH SPOT--I GET THAT, BUT WE'RE HERE TO RESCUE A FRIEND OF OURS, AND WE ALL KNOW HOW THIS IS GOING TO END, SO WORK WITH ME ON THIS, MAN.

YOU CAN'T INTIMIDATE ME! I TAKE ORDERS FROM DR. EGGMAN!

UH-HUH, "OF COURSE, DOCTOR! YOU WANT FRIES WITH THAT?"



GRRR-- ATTACK!

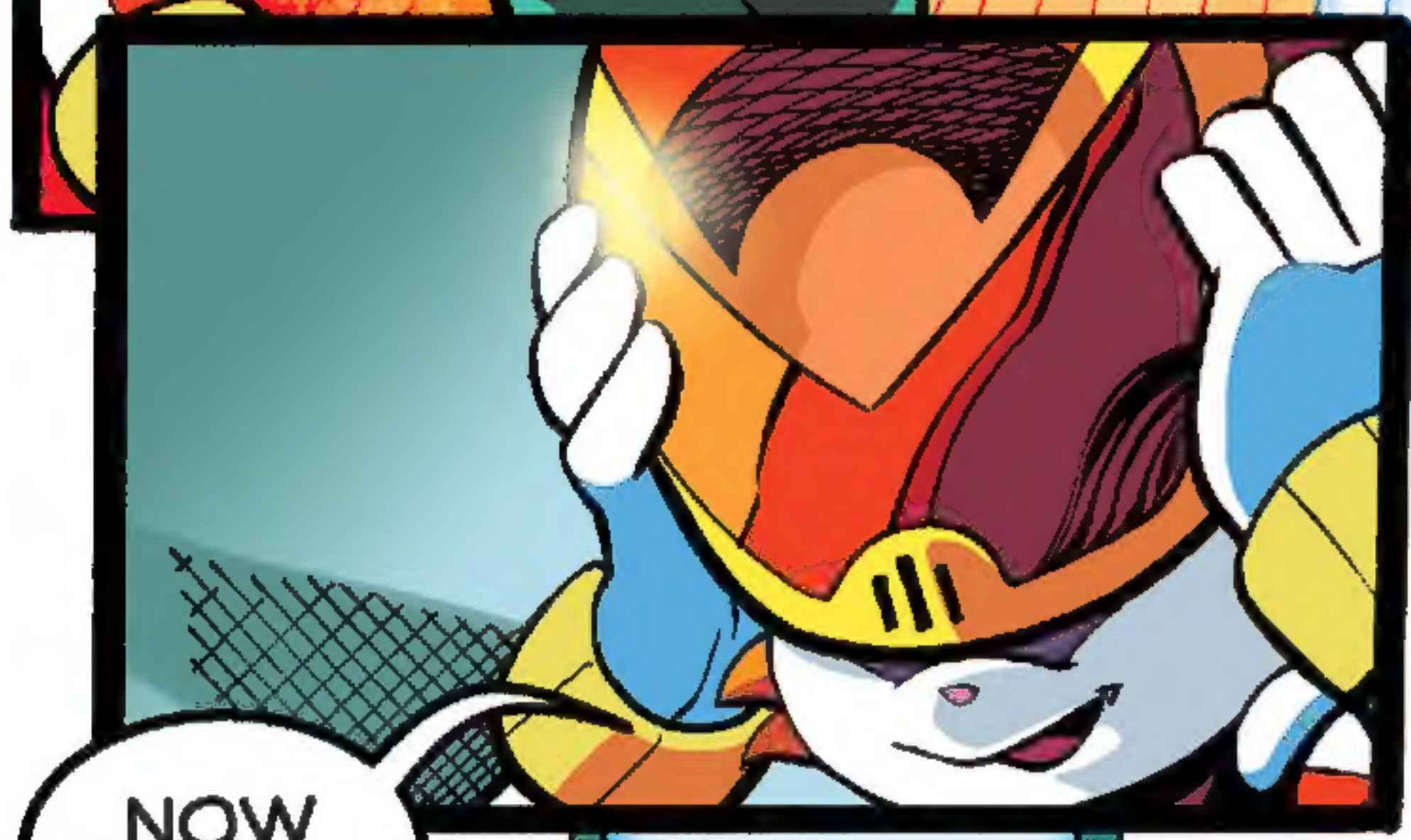


I--I...
KNEW...
THERE...
WAS A...
SPY...

FOOM!

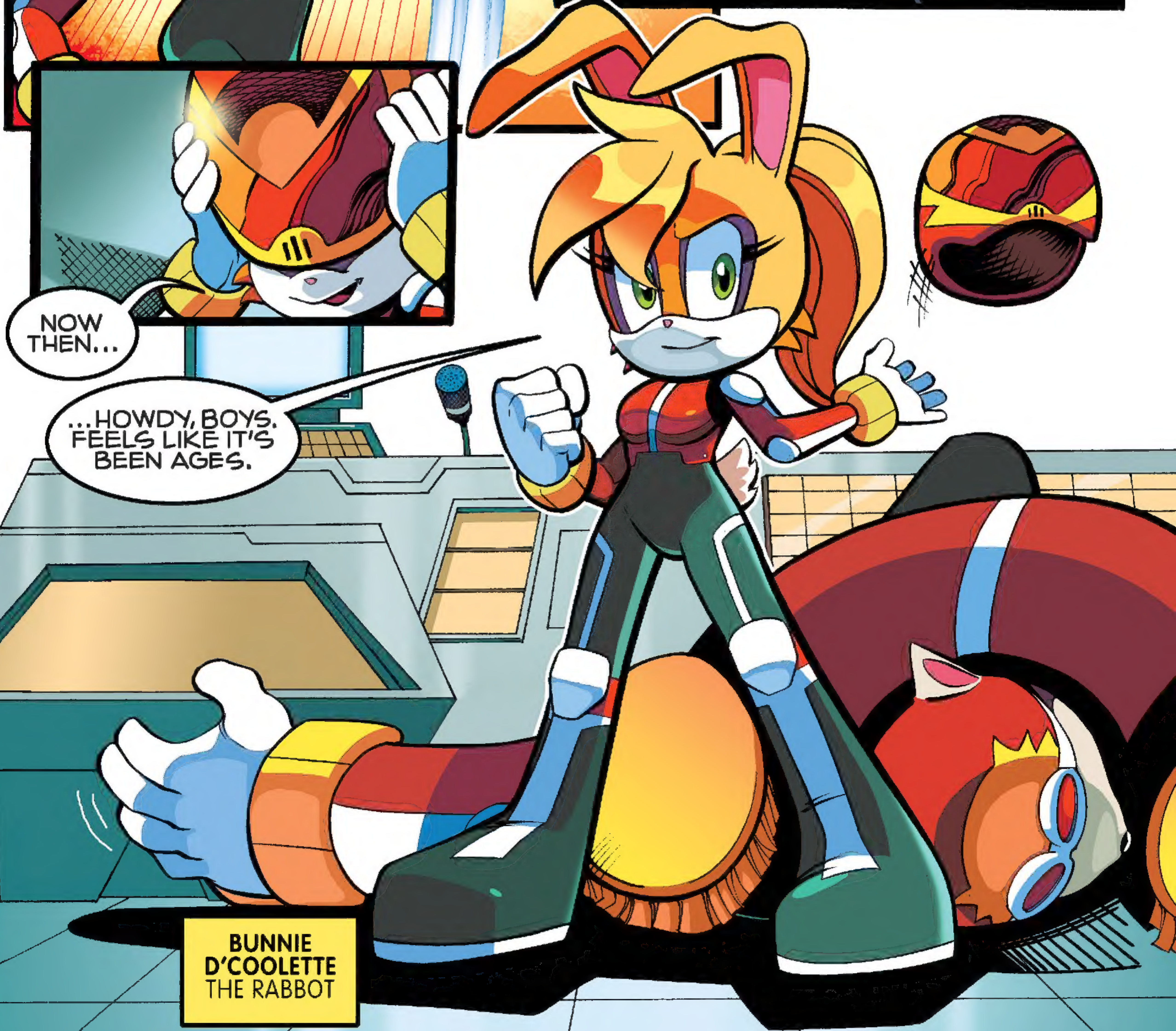
THIS IS
SCARLETT.

WE'VE GOT
SONIC *THE*
HEDGEHOG
SEALED IN THE
COMMAND
ROOM. **DO NOT**
OPEN THE
DOOR! GET
EVERYONE
ARMED AND
IN POSITION
FIRST!

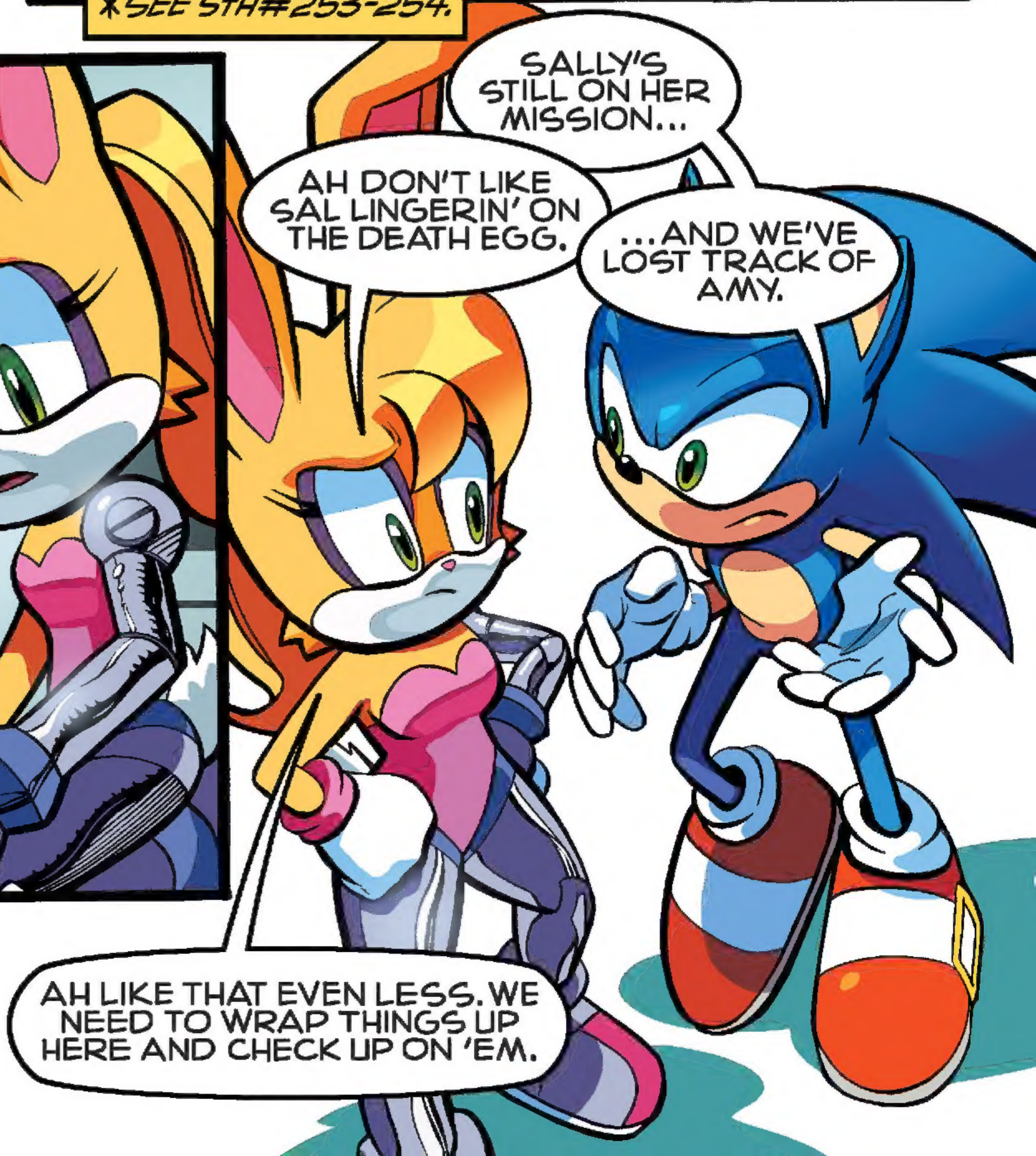
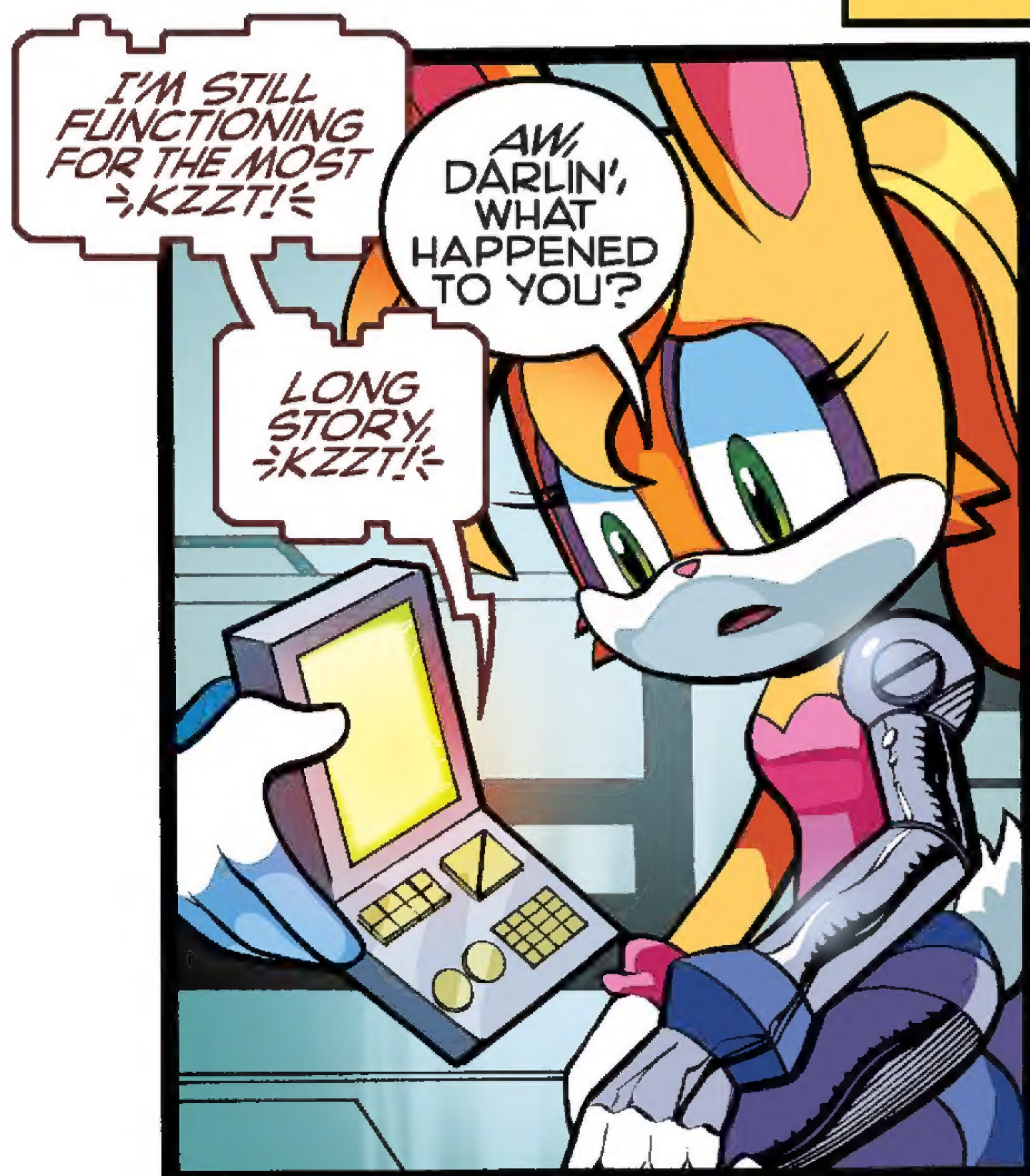


NOW
THEN...

...HOWDY, BOYS,
FEELS LIKE IT'S
BEEN AGES.



**BUNNIE
D'COOLETTE
THE RABBOT**



ROTOR SAID YOU WERE LOOKING INTO A SHIELD GENERATOR FOR THE SKY PATROL, RIGHT?

RIGHT. THE EGG ARMY HERE HAS BEEN DEVELOPIN' A REPLACEMENT FOR THE DEATH EGG. THIS BASE IS PRIMARILY FOR R&D STUFF.*

*RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.
--EDITOR.

WAIT--SO THESE GUYS ARE GEEKS FIRST, SOLDIERS SECOND? MAN-- I FEEL EVEN WORSE FOR RUNNING OVER THEM. AND YOUR POOR "BOSS"!!!

DON'T FEEL SO BAD, HON. THEY *WERE* TRYIN' TO SHOOT YOU.

THEY *JUST* FINISHED THE GENERATOR TODAY, AND AH WAS WORKIN' ON A WAY TO NAB IT 'FORE IT GETS SHIPPED OFF. BUT NOW THAT Y'ALL ARE HERE, EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE LOCKED DOWN TIGHT.

AND YOUR USUAL PLAN OF "RUN FAST, HIT HARD" AIN'T GONNA GET US IN.

WHAT IF I RAN *REALLY* FAST AND HIT IT *REALLY* HARD?

HAHA! CUT IT OUT! THIS IS SERIOUS.

WHOA, YOU'RE A...YOUR ARM...

I THOUGHT THAT WAS... MAYBE PART OF YOUR DISGUISE.

YOU'RE STILL ROBOTICIZED ...? OR...?

HE'S RIGHT--THE EGG ARMY AIN'T GONNA WAIT OUTSIDE FOREVER. LEMME SYNC UP WITH NICOLE, AND WE'LL COME UP WITH A PLAN.

UM... WHAT'RE Y'ALL TALKIN' ABOUT? AH'VE BEEN THIS WAY FOR YEARS. YOU *KNOW* THAT.



WAIT. I REMEMBER NOW--
CHUCK SAVED HER LIFE BACK
WHEN EGGMAN FIRST ATTACKED.
Y'KNOW...IN *THIS* REALITY.

I REMEMBER,
TOO...I THINK.

WE STILL NEED BUNNIE
TO RESTORE NICOLE'S
SYSTEMS...

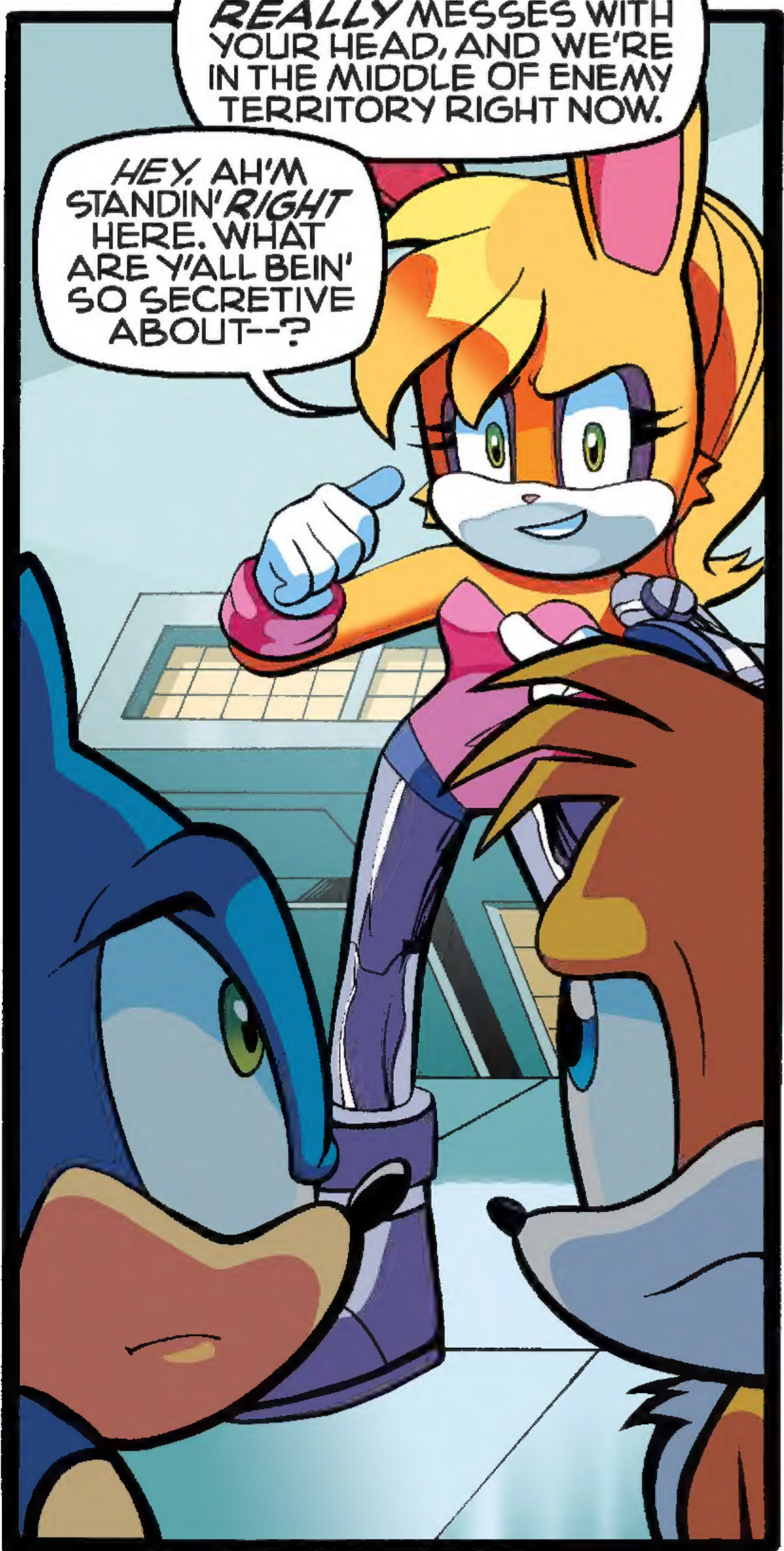
I HIGHLY SUGGEST
WE DO IT LATER,
AFTER WE'RE OUT
OF HARM'S *KZZT!*

I AGREE.



COMPLETING THE
CIRCUIT WITH NICOLE
REALLY MESSSES WITH
YOUR HEAD, AND WE'RE
IN THE MIDDLE OF ENEMY
TERRITORY RIGHT NOW.

HEY. AH'M
STANDIN' *RIGHT*
HERE. WHAT
ARE Y'ALL BEIN'
SO SECRETIVE
ABOUT--?



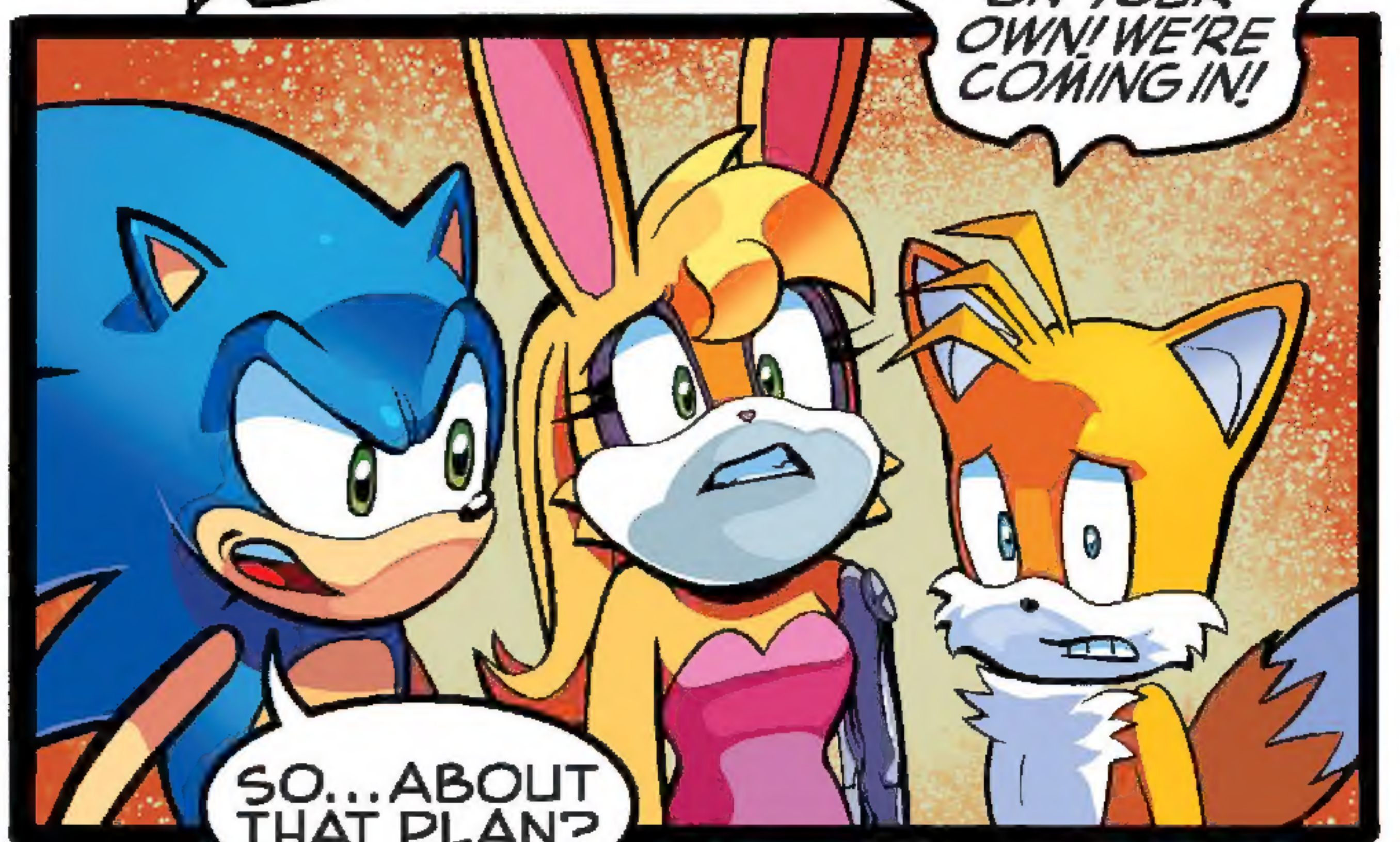
WE'RE READY
TO MOVE ON THE
HEDGEHOG. UN-
LOCK THE DOORS!

SONIC TOOK HIM
DOWN... *AND* THE
DOOR CONTROLS!
STAND BY WHILE
AH...

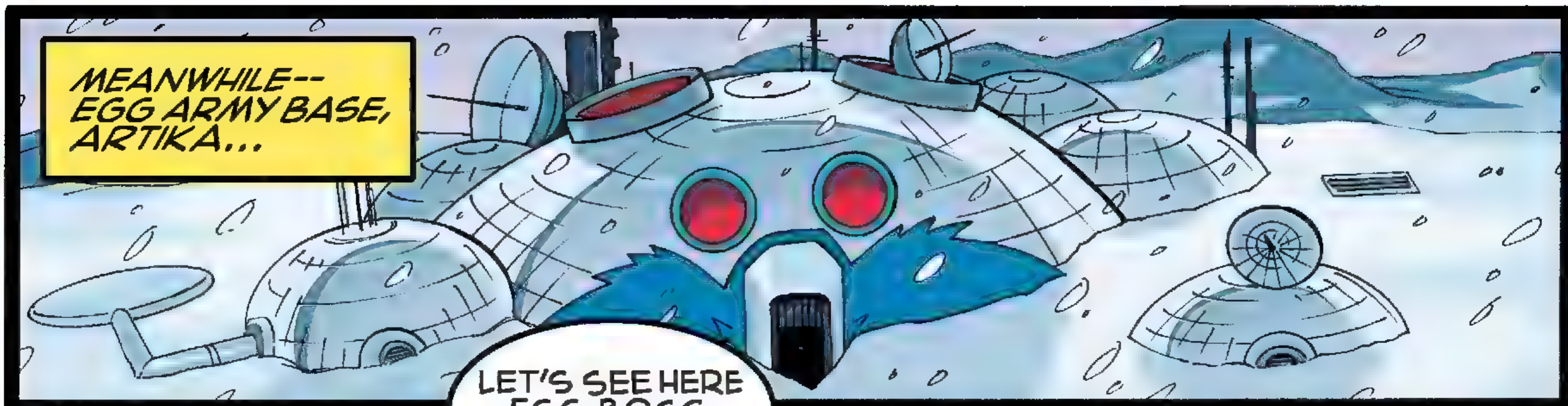
UHH...
NEGATIVE!
HE'S TOO
STRONG!

WHERE'S
THE FORE-
MAN?

YOU CAN'T
HANDLE HIM
ON YOUR
OWN! WE'RE
COMING IN!



SO... ABOUT
THAT PLAN?



MEANWHILE--
EGG ARMY BASE,
ARTIKA...

LET'S SEE HERE
...EGG BOSS...
TUNDRA?



YES,
SIRE.

RUNNING THE
EGG ARMY OF
THE...ARTIKA
CONTINENT?

CORRECT
AGAIN, SIRE.



IS...THIS
A TEST?

THAT DEPENDS.

DO YOU
HAVE MY
TRANSPORT
TO THE
DEATH EGG
READY AS
I RE-
QUESTED?



READY AND
WAITING, SIRE.

THEN, YES,
THIS WAS A
TEST--AND
YOU JUST
PASSED!



THE AUTOPILOT IS SET FOR
WHERE THE DEATH EGG IS
DOCKED.

I'VE SENT PATROLS
AS REGULARLY AS
POSSIBLE, BUT THE
WEATHER LATELY HAS
BEEN BEASTLY.

YES,
YES, WHAT-
EVER.



YOU'VE
DONE WELL.
NOW GET
BACK TO
WORK!

UH
...YES,
SIRE!

AHH...
SO CLOSE TO HOME.
GLORIOUS, DEADLY
HOME.

CUBOT
FAULTY VOICE
CHIP

YOU SEEMED
AWFUL FAMILIAR
WITH THAT EGG
BOSS, SIR.

ORBOT
SASSY
LACKEY

JA,
ESPECIALLY FIR
SOMEONE FRIM
A DEEF-RINT
TIMELINE.

A TIMELINE TO WHICH
WE'RE ADJUSTING...
WHETHER WE WANT TO
OR NOT. I SUSPECT
THAT BEFORE LONG,
THIS NEW REALITY--
MY NEW HISTORY--
WILL TAKE PERMANENT
HOLD.

YLIMPIN' YIMMINEY!
IS THAT GONNA HIPPEN
TO US, TOO?

YOU WERE AT
THE EPICENTER
OF THE REALITY
SHIFT WITH ME,
SO I'D ASSUME
SO. YOUR PRO-
GRAMMING MAY
BE REWRITING
ITSELF AS WE
SPEAK.

SO THAT'S WHY
YOU'VE BEEN PUSH-
ING SO HARD TO
GET HOME, FIGUR-
ING OUT THESE
DUAL MEMORIES
MUST BE
TOUGH.

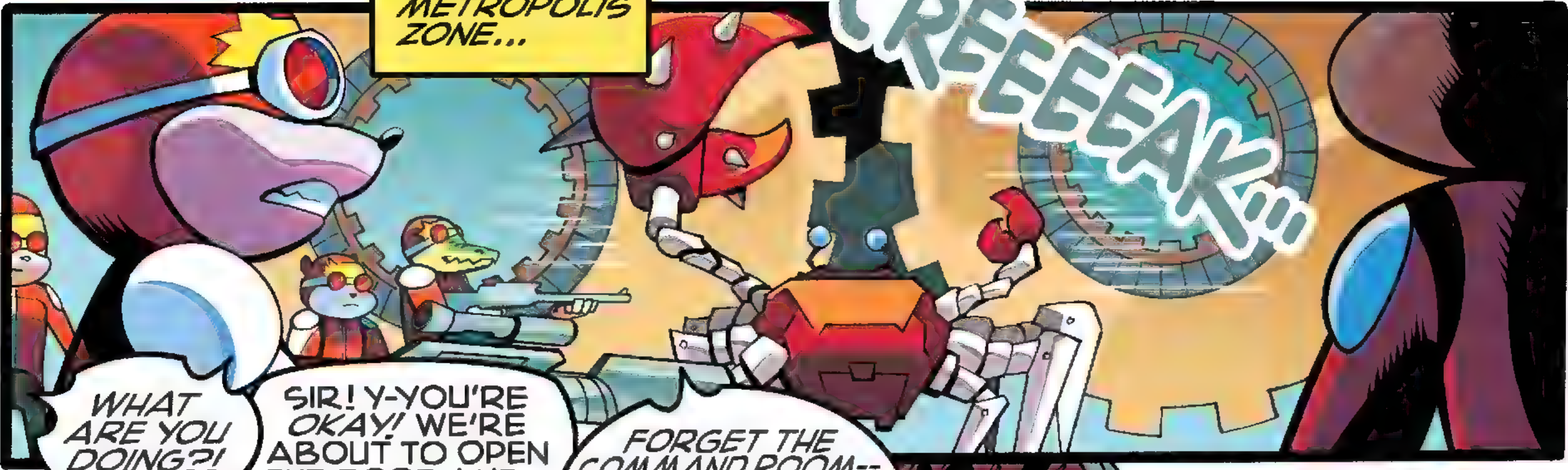
~SIGH~
I WONDER IF MY NEW
LIFE WILL HAVE BEEN
AS "GLAMOROUS" AS
THE OLD ONE...

PLEASE. MY BRILLIANT MIND
CAN HANDLE IT ALL FINE. NO...
WHAT CONCERNS ME ARE THE
READINGS I GLIMPSED IN
EFRYKA. * IT MAY ALREADY
BE TOO LATE...

*STH#253.

BACK IN METROPOLIS ZONE...

CREEEAK



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

SIR! Y-YOU'RE OKAY! WE'RE ABOUT TO OPEN THE DOOR AND...

FORGET THE COMMAND ROOM-- WE'RE LOCKED DOWN! →KZZT← GET THE HEDGEHOG!



"HE'S ALREADY OUTSIDE..."

"...AND HEADING FOR THE RESEARCH VAULT!"

WHAM!

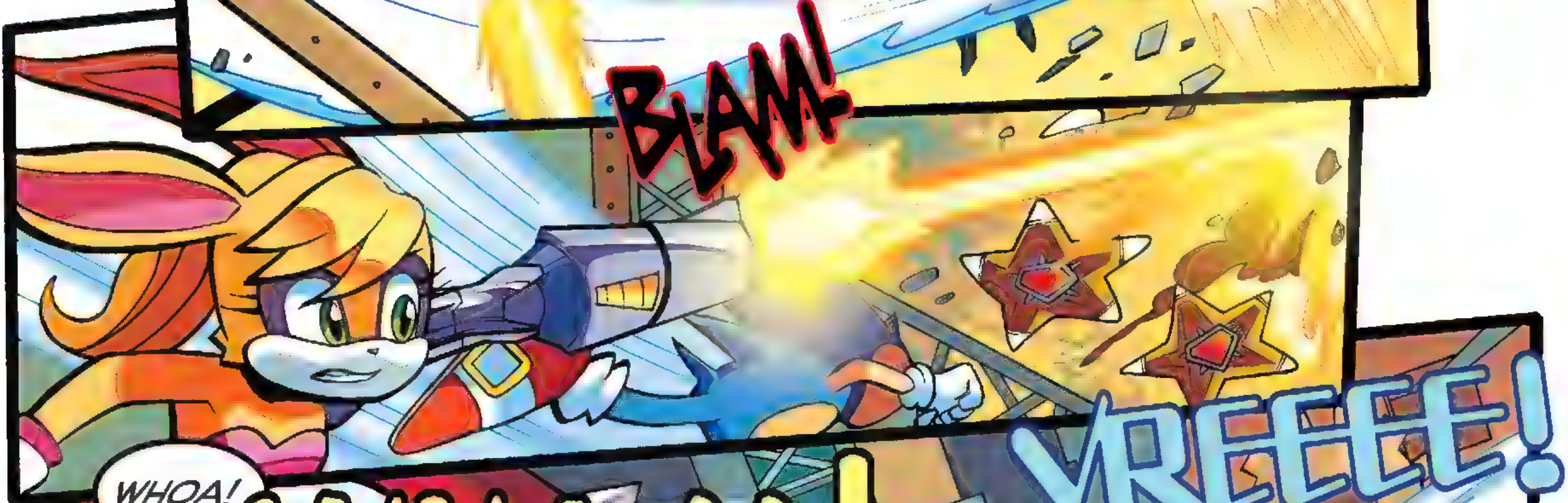
YOU HEARD THE FOREMAN! FORGET THE DOOR! MOVE IT!

SEE? "RUN FAST" IS ALWAYS PART OF THE PLAN.

AH AIN'T RUNNIN' --AH'M FLYIN'!



SAME DIFFERENCE!





THIS IS A DOOR?

YUP, SEE WHY AH SAID WE COULDN'T JUST BUST OUR WAY IN?

EH, I'VE SPIN-DASHED BIGGER.

OH, YOU HAVE NOT!



HALT!



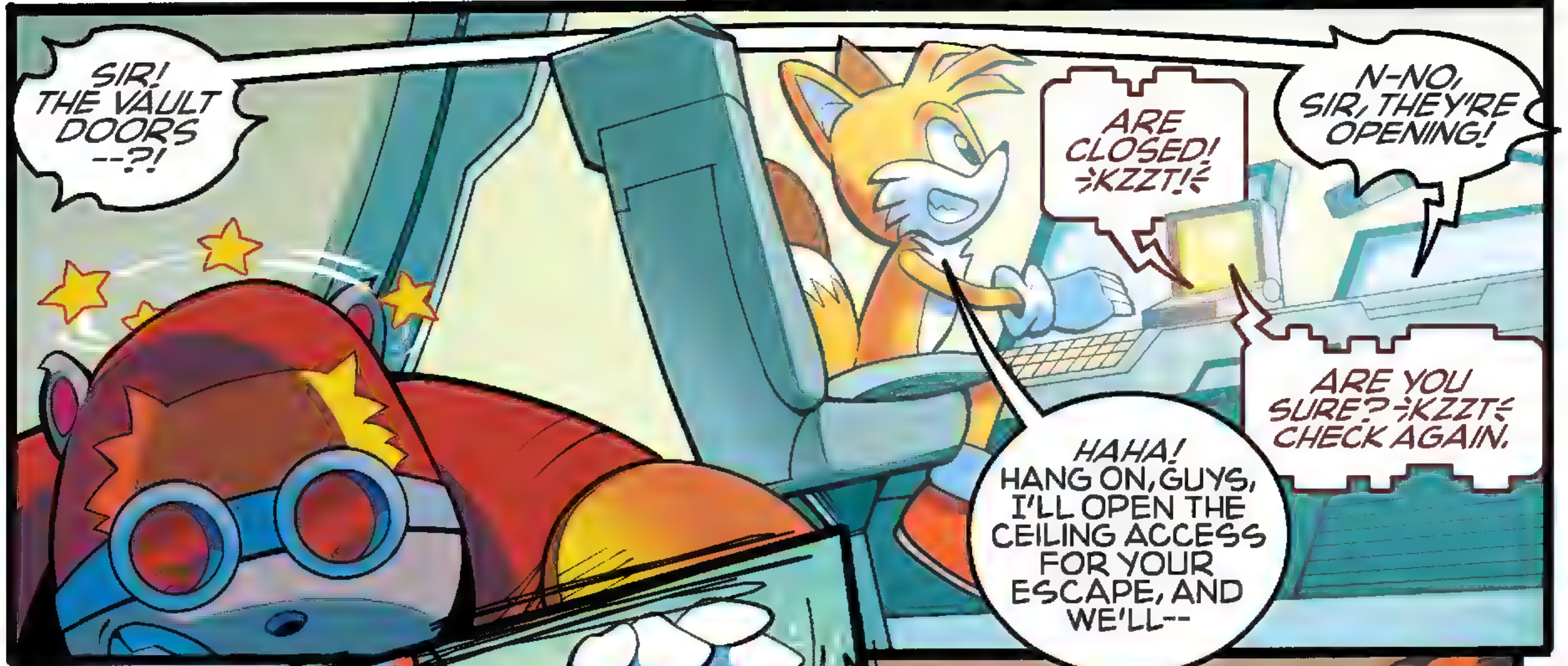
YOU ARE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED! SURRENDER NOW AND BEG FOR MERCY FROM THE EGGMAN EMPIRE!



GOODNESS! WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, I GUESS WE HAVE NO CHOICE!

WE'RE IN POSITION, SUGAR.





SIR!
THE VAULT
DOORS
--?!

ARE
CLOSED!
~KZZT!

N-NO,
SIR, THEY'RE
OPENING!

ARE YOU
SURE? ~KZZT!
CHECK AGAIN.

HAHA!
HANG ON, GUYS,
I'LL OPEN THE
CEILING ACCESS
FOR YOUR
ESCAPE, AND
WE'LL--



TAILS?
IT'S BUNNIE!
WHAT IN
TARNATION'S
GOIN' ON?!

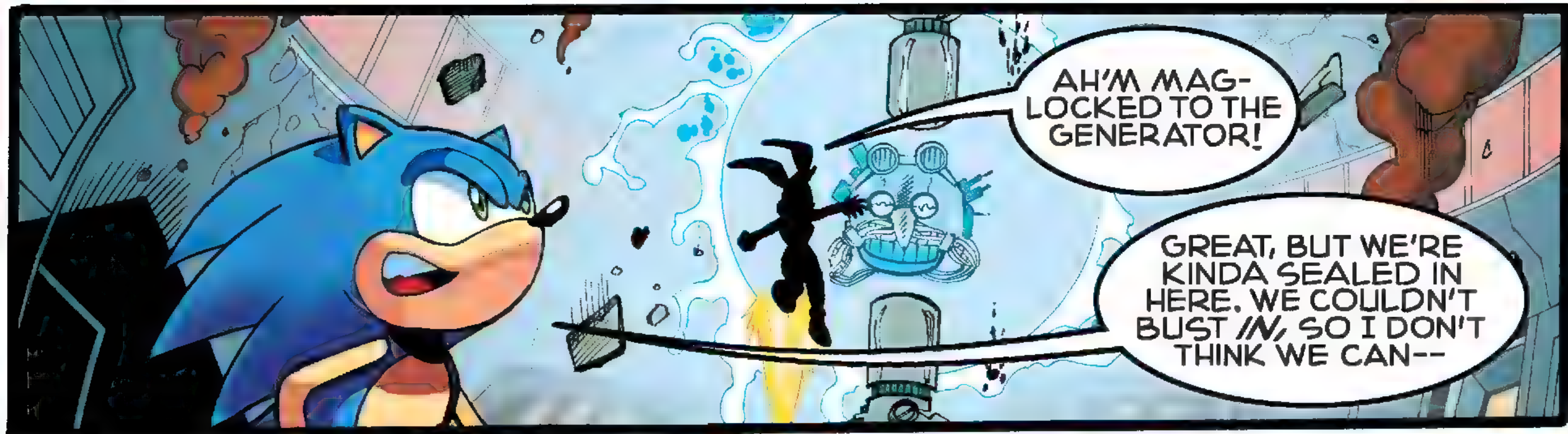
RRRUMBLE!!!

RRRGH!
IT'S ANOTHER
EARTHQUAKE!
I CAN'T--



JUST GO
ON! WE'LL
MEET'CHA
AT THE
TORNADO!

EMERGENCY!
EMERGENCY!
ALL EGG
SOLDIERS TO
YOUR SECURE
SHELTERS!
EMERGEN--
~SHVK!~



AH'M MAG-LOCKED TO THE GENERATOR!

GREAT, BUT WE'RE KINDA SEALED IN HERE. WE COULDN'T BUST IN, SO I DON'T THINK WE CAN--

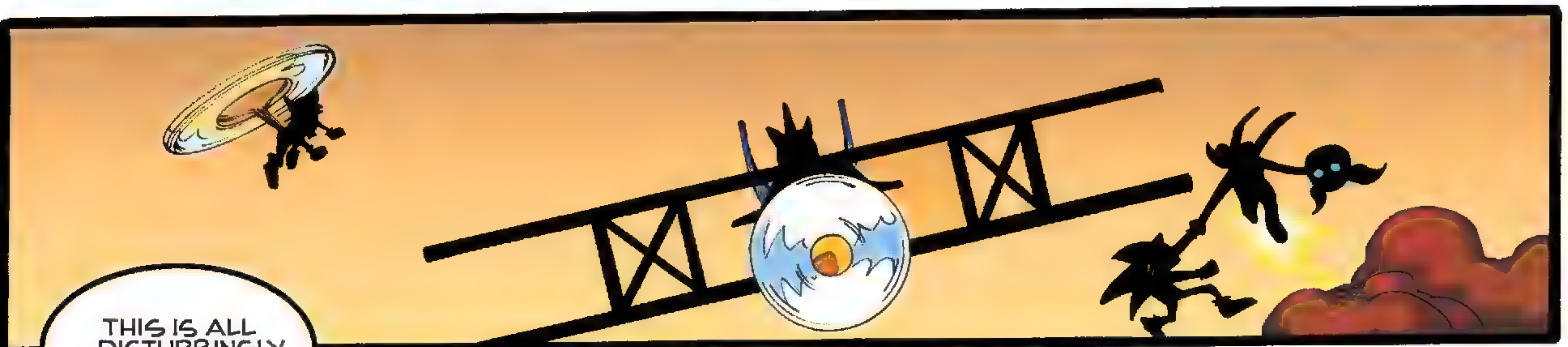


CRASH!

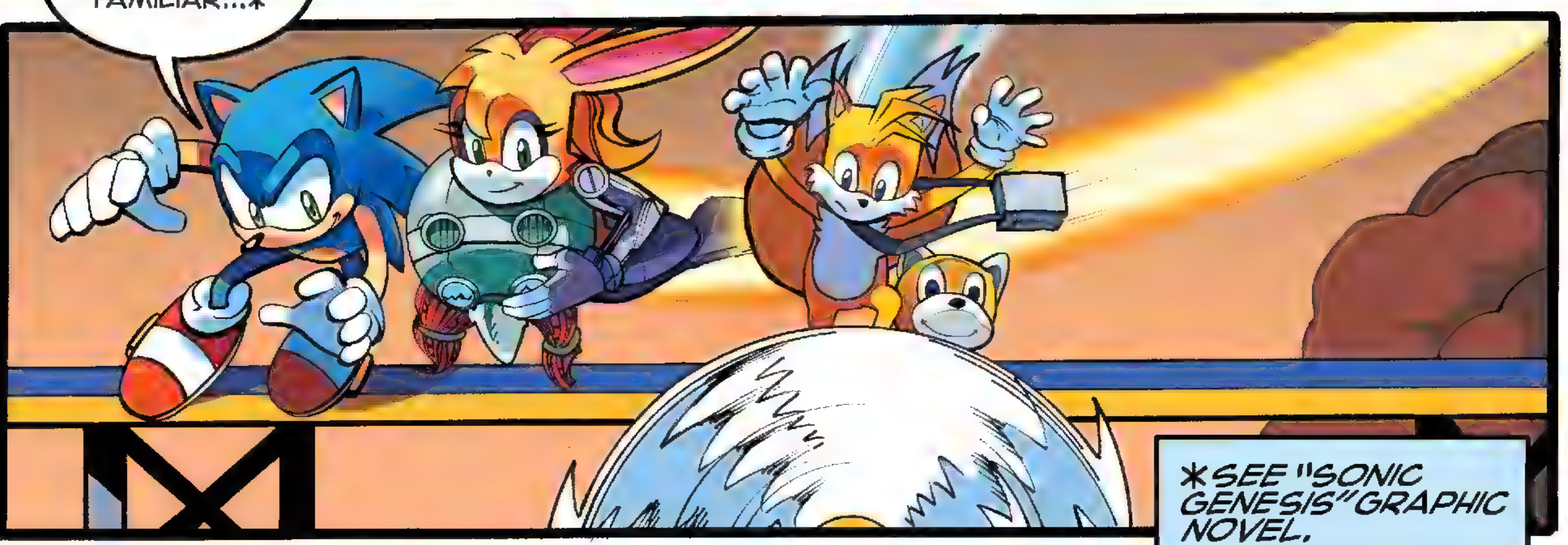


NEVER MIND! LOOKS LIKE THESE QUAKE'S ARE USEFUL FOR A CHANGE. GUN IT!

VWOOSH



THIS IS ALL ...DISTURBINGLY FAMILIAR...*



*SEE "SONIC GENESIS" GRAPHIC NOVEL.



WHAT WAS THAT?

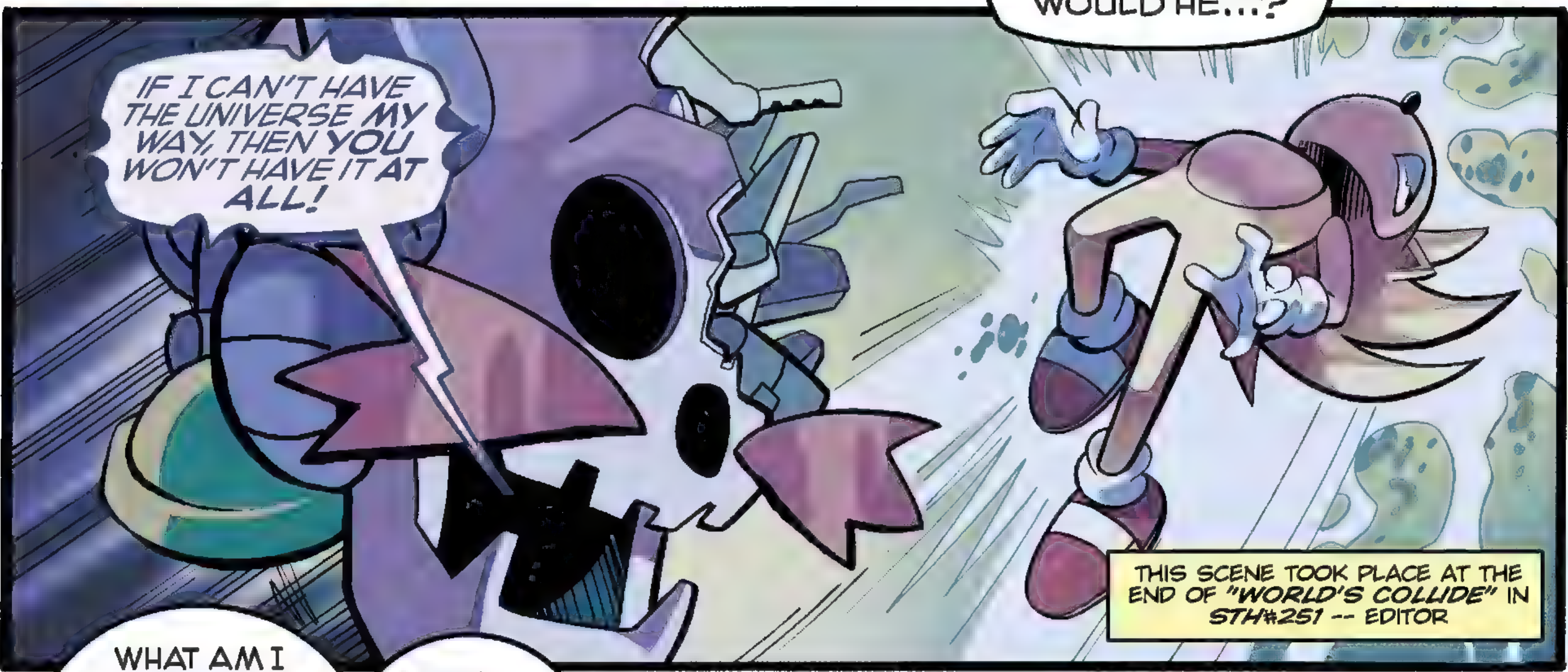
I SAID...

...THIS IS LIKE THE QUAKES IN WOOD ZONE. CHUCK THOUGHT EGGMAN WAS BEHIND IT, BUT...



EGGMAN? AH DON'T THINK SO...RECENTLY THERE'D BEEN A LOT OF REPORTS COMIN' IN FROM OTHER EGG ARMY BASES 'BOLT STUFF LIKE THIS.

HE WOULDN'T BE CRAZY ENOUGH TO ENDANGER HIS OWN BASES, WOULD HE...?



IF I CAN'T HAVE THE UNIVERSE MY WAY, THEN YOU WON'T HAVE IT AT ALL!

THIS SCENE TOOK PLACE AT THE END OF "WORLD'S COLLIDE" IN STH#251 -- EDITOR

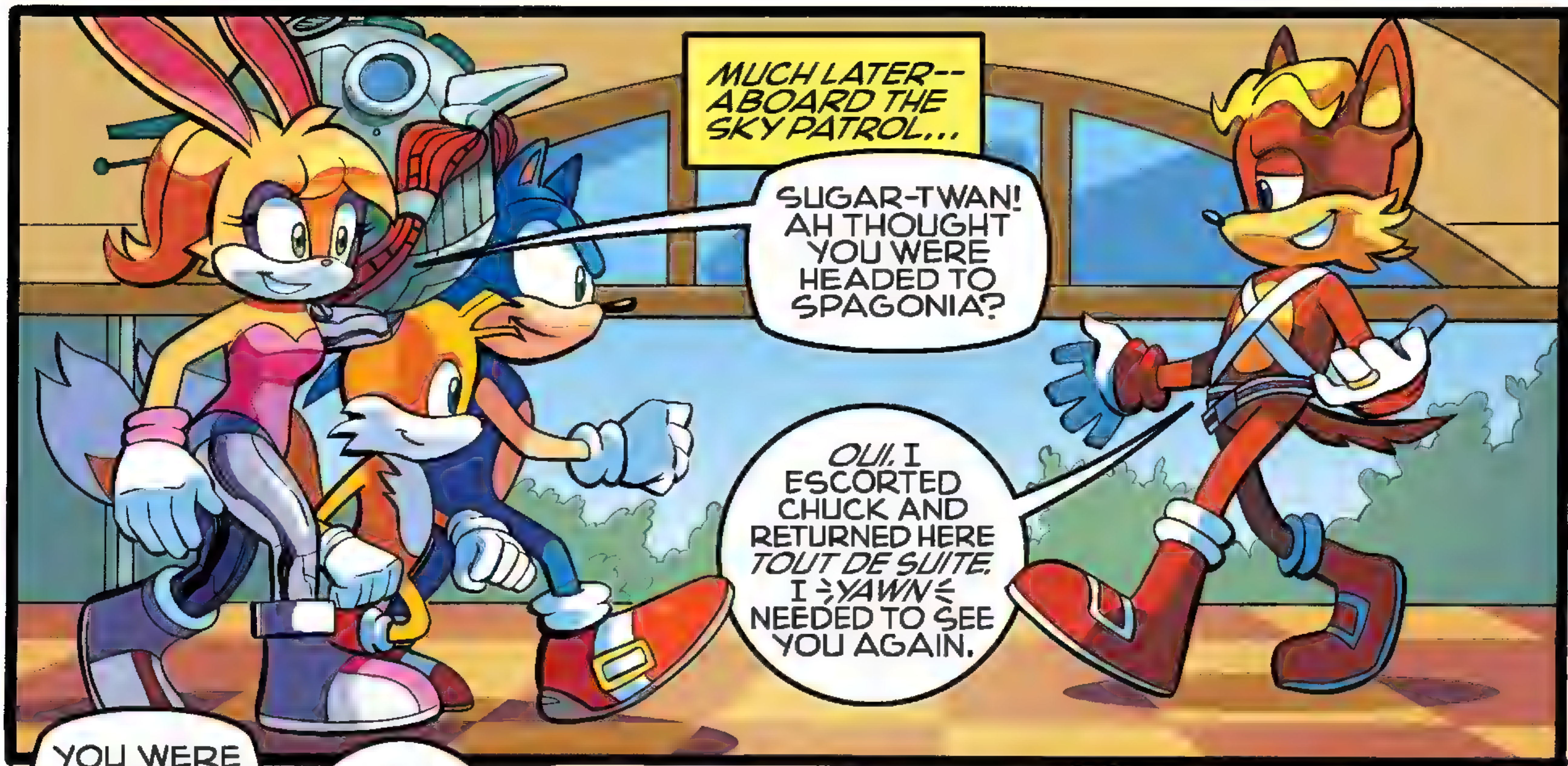


WHAT AM I SAYING? OF COURSE HE'S THAT CRAZY, LET'S JUST GET BACK TO THE SKY PATROL AND INSTALL THIS DOOHICKEY.

THAT SOUNDS FINE TO ME, SUGAR-HOG!



ATTENTION-- ALL PERSONNEL! BEGIN CLEAN-UP PROCEDURES!



MUCH LATER--
ABOARD THE
SKY PATROL...

SUGAR-TWAN!
AH THOUGHT
YOU WERE
HEADED TO
SPAGONIA?

OUI, I
ESCORTED
CHUCK AND
RETURNED HERE
TOUT DE SUITE.
I \Rightarrow YAWN \Leftarrow
NEEDED TO SEE
YOU AGAIN.

YOU WERE
ALMOST
ROMANTIC
UP UNTIL
THAT YAWN.

I WAS
HAVING ZE
ROUGH
FLIGHT
HERE.

MINE WAS
ROUGHER.

NOW, THEN--
WE'RE HERE,
ALL SAFE 'N'
SOUND. WHAT
WERE Y'ALL
WHISPERING
ABOUT BACK IN
METROPOLIS
ZONE?

IT'S A LONG
STORY, AND
THERE'S NO
EASY WAY TO
PREPARE ANY-
ONE FOR IT.
Y'SEE...



THIS IS ALSO THE REASON I
AM COMING HERE QUICKLY.
I SHOULD BE HELPING HER
THROUGH THIS.

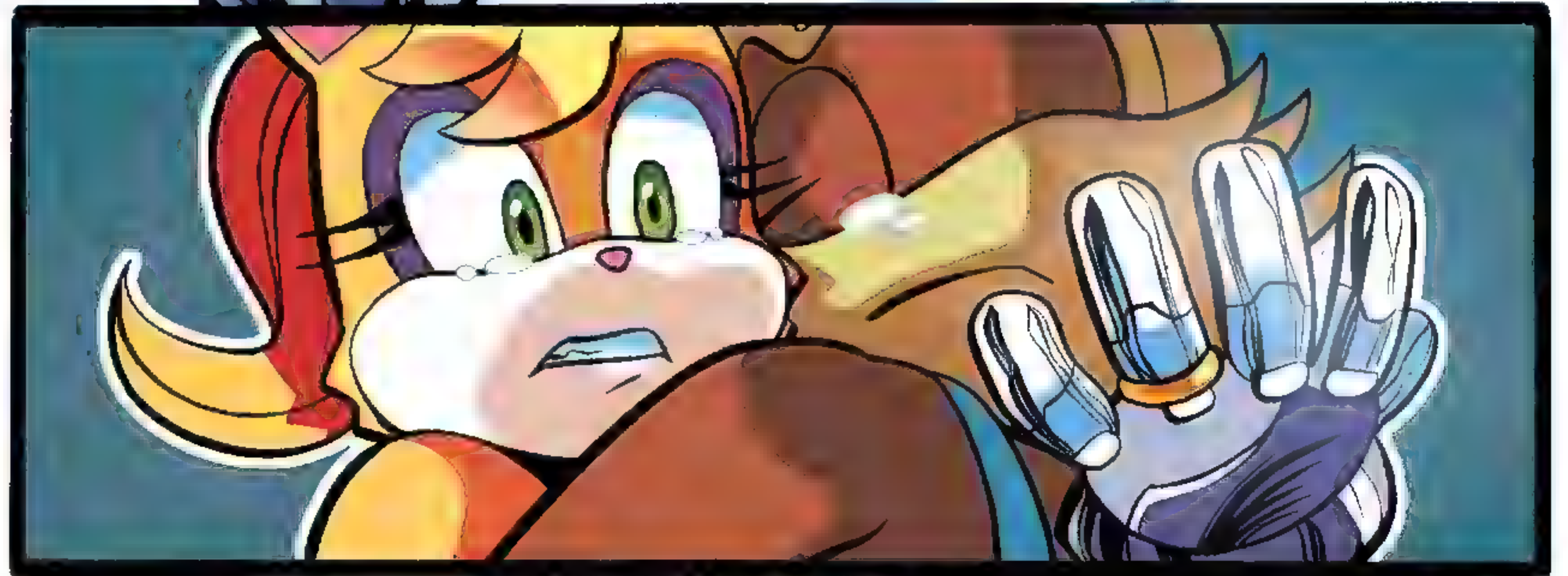
YOU'RE
ABSOLUTELY
RIGHT. HERE.

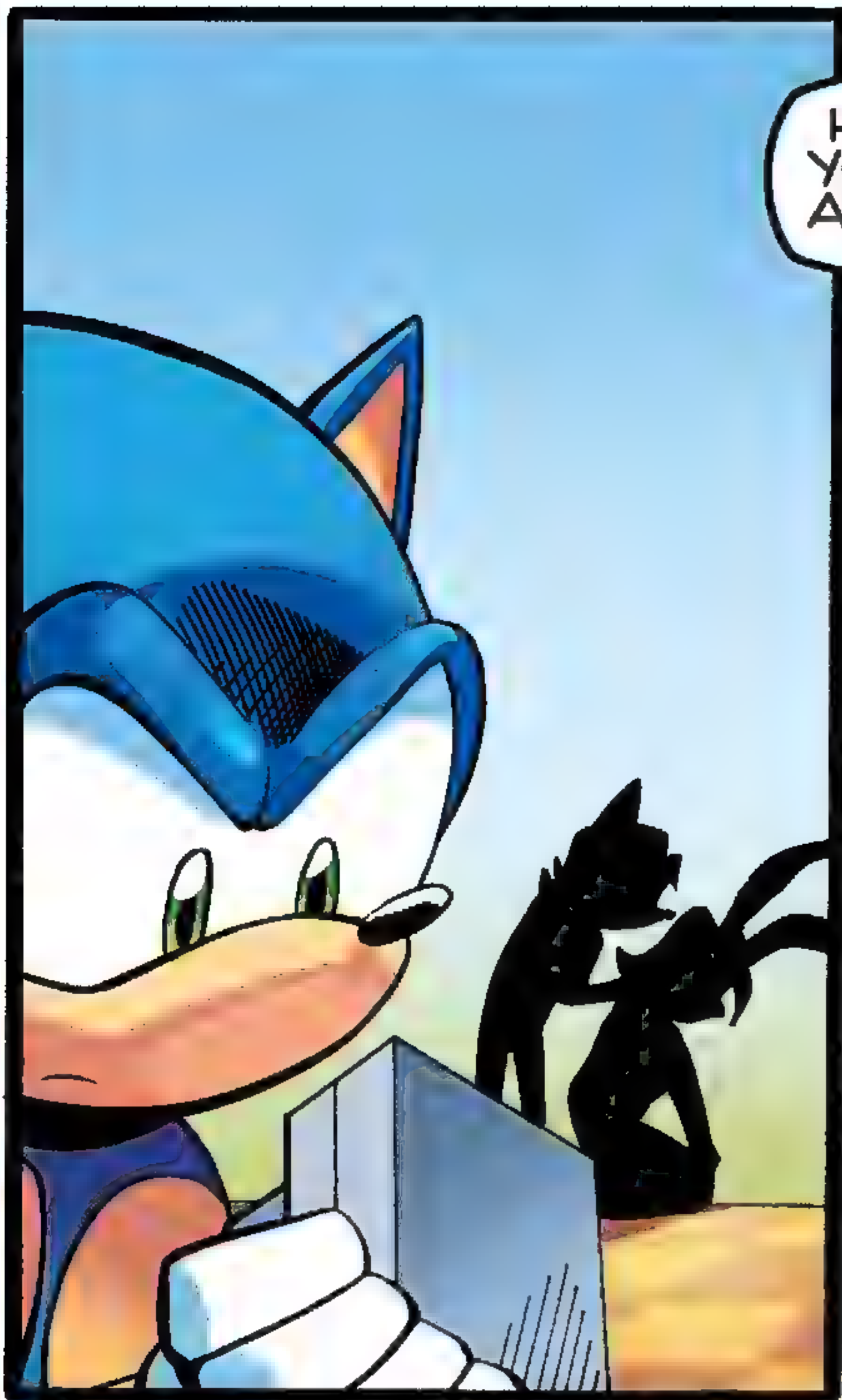
I...I'LL
GET THE
GENERATOR
TO ROTOR...



TAKE NICOLE,
MON AMOUIR.
KNOW THAT I
AM HERE.

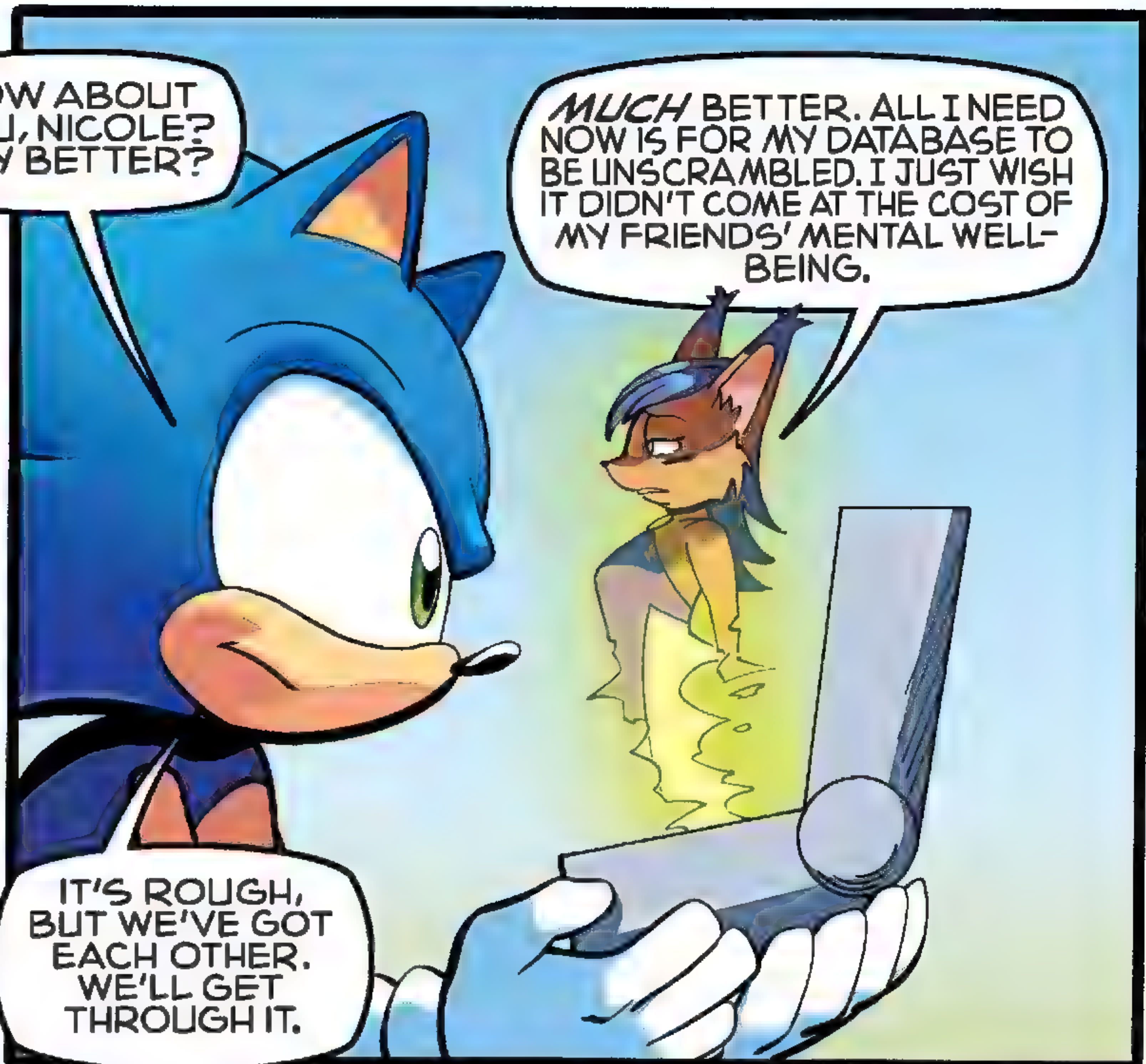
ALL RIGHT, THIS
BETTER EXPLAIN
WHY Y'ALL ARE
ACTIN' SO WEIRD.





HOW ABOUT YOU, NICOLE? ANY BETTER?

IT'S ROUGH, BUT WE'VE GOT EACH OTHER. WE'LL GET THROUGH IT.



MUCH BETTER. ALL I NEED NOW IS FOR MY DATABASE TO BE UNSCRAMBLLED. I JUST WISH IT DIDN'T COME AT THE COST OF MY FRIENDS' MENTAL WELL-BEING.



IT MAY BE A MOOT POINT IN THE END. I BARELY HAVE ANY ENERGIES LEFT OVER FROM THE GENESIS WAVE. IT... MAY COME DOWN TO RESTORING EITHER SALLY OR AMY.

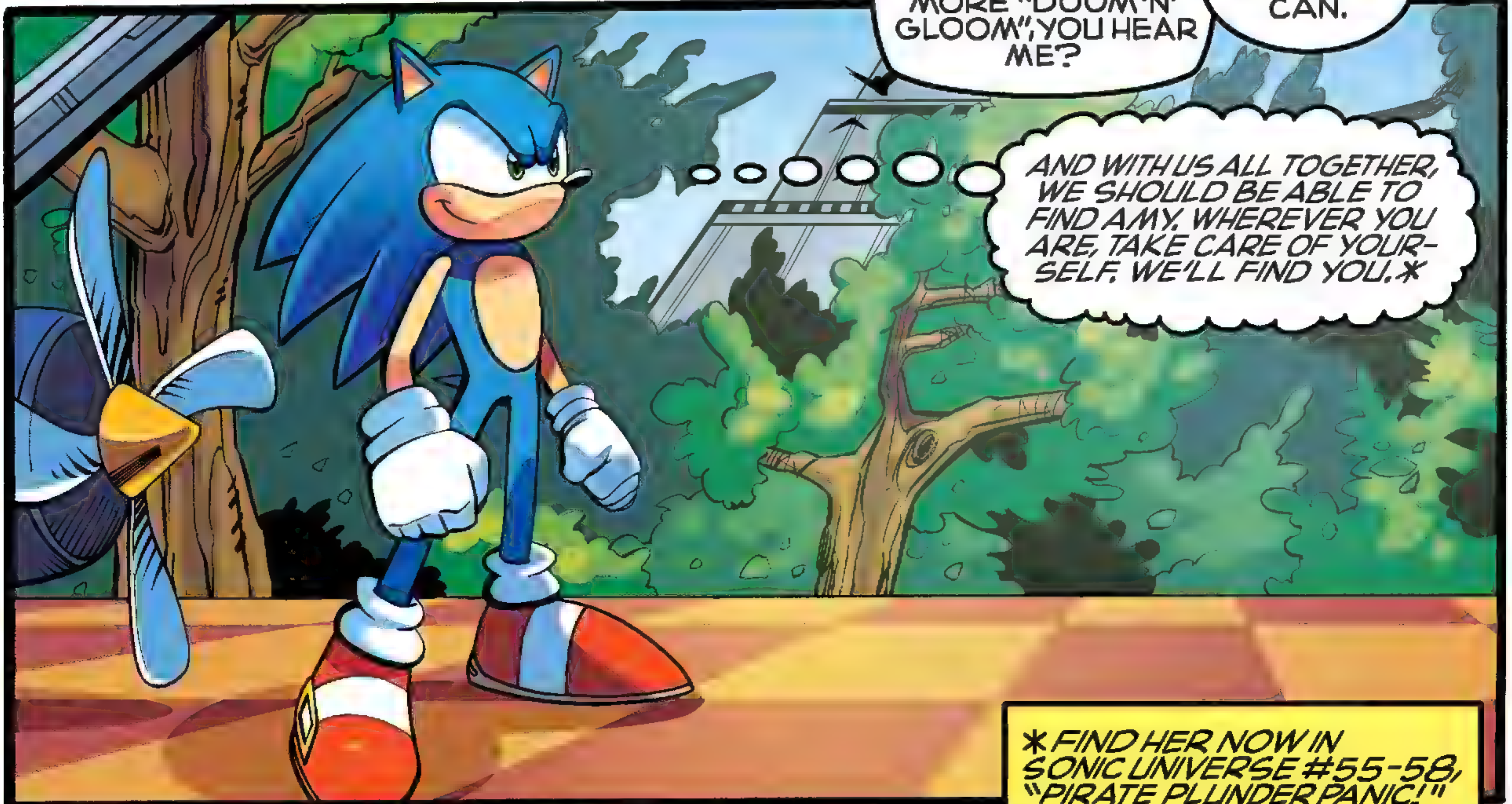
WE'LL CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE COME TO IT.



FIRST, WE NEED TO GET THEM BACK HERE.

SO SEE IF YOU CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH SAL. AND NO MORE "DOOM'N' GLOOM", YOU HEAR ME?

I'LL DO WHAT I CAN.



AND WITH US ALL TOGETHER, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND AMY, WHEREVER YOU ARE, TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF. WE'LL FIND YOU.*

* FIND HER NOW IN SONIC UNIVERSE #55-58, "PIRATE PLUNDER PANIC!"

ABOARD THE DEATH EGG...

AHH... FRESH CLOTHES, A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP, AND MY FLYING MECHANICAL EGG OF DOOM ABOUT TO COME BACK ONLINE! IT ALMOST BRINGS A TEAR TO MY EYE!

WHAT'S THE GOOD NEWS, MY LOYAL LACKEY?

NONE, I DO HAVE BAD NEWS IN STOCK, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED.

GRRR... WHAT NOW?

METROPOLIS ZONE REPORTS MASSIVE DAMAGE DUE TO AN EARTHQUAKE, AND THAT THE SHIELD GENERATOR YOU COMMISSIONED WAS STOLEN BY THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

OF ALL THE-- ANYTHING ELSE?!

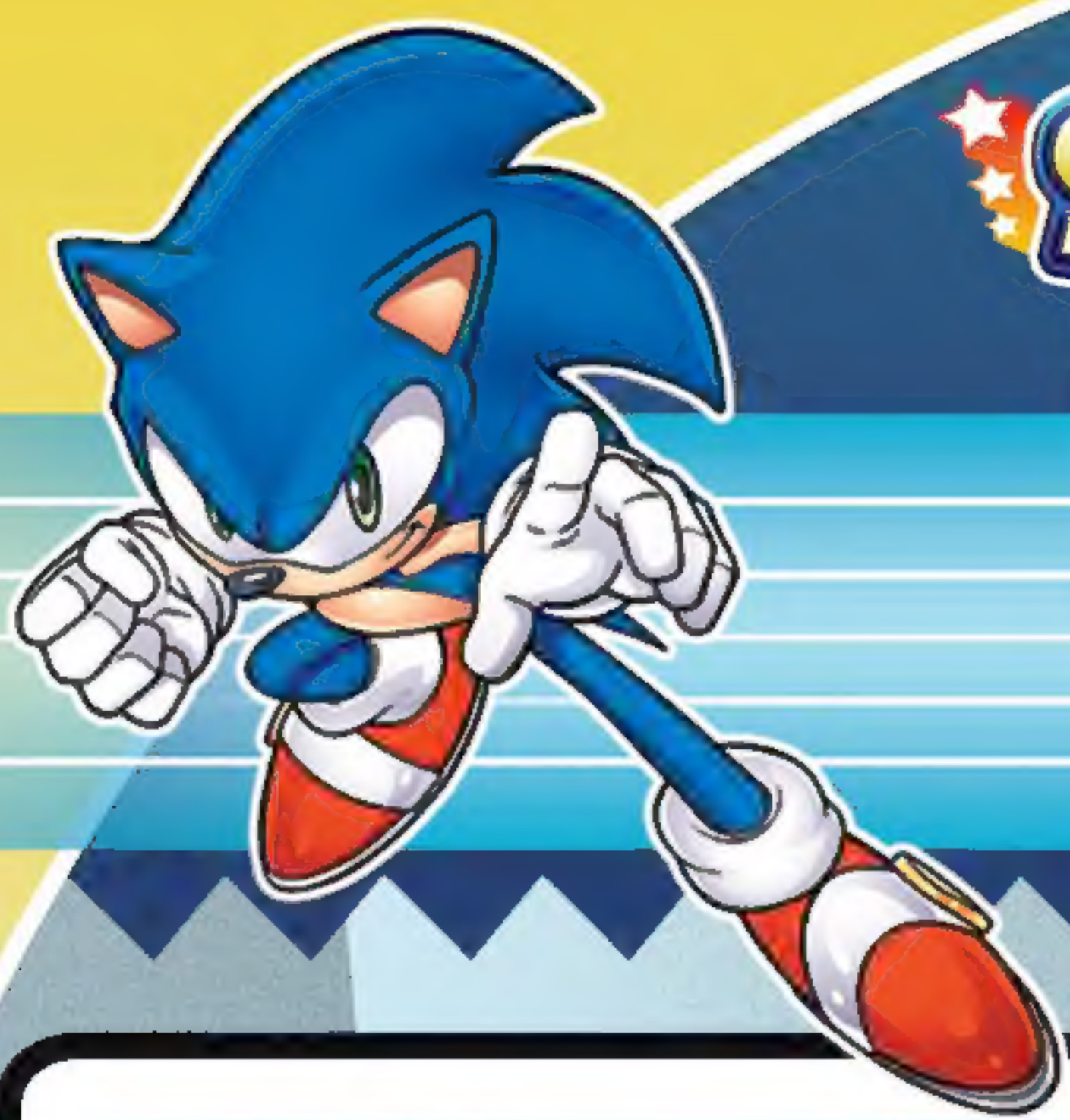
YES, BOSS. IT SEEMS AN ESCAPE POD LAUNCHED A FEW HOURS BEFORE WE ARRIVED. SECURITY MANAGED TO CATCH THIS IMAGE.

AWW... SHE NIT A ROBOT NO MIR? AND BEFIR YOU COULD DO ANYTHING INTERESTING WITH HIR...

TRACK THAT POD. SEND METAL SONIC.

SONIC DOESN'T GET TO SEE HER AGAIN --ALIVE.

SALLY'S ON THE RUN-- BUT WILL SHE SURVIVE LONG ENOUGH TO BE REUNITED WITH SONIC? WHEN WILL AMY ROSE RETURN? AND WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE PLANET? ALL THIS COMES TO AN EXPLOSIVE CONCLUSION NEXT TIME!



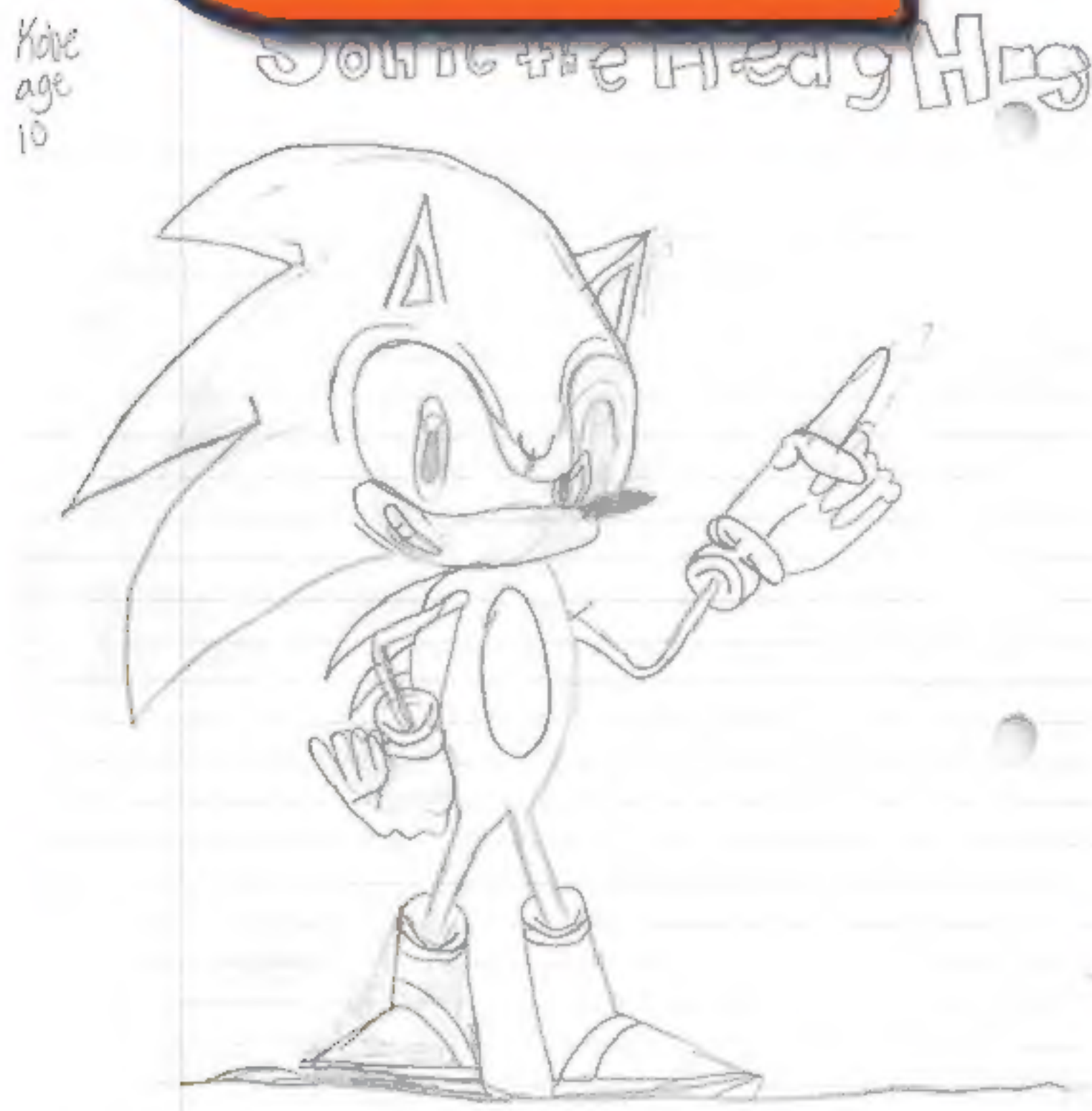
SONIC-GRAMS

FAN ART



Marisol G. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Kobe Y. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com



Cooper W. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com



Marshal D. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

HEY, KIDS!

WANNA SEE YOUR OWN
SONIC FAN ART OR FAN
COMICS IN PRINT??
SEND YOUR ART TO :

MY SONIC FAN ART C/O
ARCHIE COMICS PUBLICATIONS, INC.
P.O. BOX #419 MAMARONECK NY 10543-0419
E-MAIL: SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM



OFF PANEL

SCRIPT: TYLER CAPPS PENCILS: EVAN STANLEY
INKS: TERRY AUSTIN COLORS: ALEAH BAKER





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SONIC-GRAMS

WRITE TO US @: SONIC GRAMS C/O ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.
P.O. BOX #419 MAMARONECK, NY 10543-0419 E-MAIL: SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM

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Dear 'Sonic Grams,'
Hi my name is Trevor and I have a few questions.

Hello, Trevor! The usual it is!

1. Will Honey the Cat be in any comics?

It's possible! If we get enough requests we'll do our best to make this a reality!

2. Was Nicole's design based off of any other characters?

Nicole, along with a lot of the new universe designs are fabricated to look more in tune with Sonic's world! Ideas and aspects of a lot of previously established Sega characters were used to influence these changes!

3. In STH 253 I saw that some of Eggman's minions had Extreme Gear. How did they get it?

Eggman has A LOT of

factories where his genius designs are created, Extreme Gear are a must for his Egg Army!

You guys make the best comics ever!

Trevor H. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks, Trevor! We'll keep making the best as long as we have awesome fans such as yourself!

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'

I really like the Countdown to Chaos arc, especially because we get to see all of Sonic's friends designed differently. I like Antoine's new look a lot better than his old one and I especially like Uncle Chuck's new look.

Great! I'm glad you like it! Antoine is so cool, especially with his new spinning sword slash attack and Chuck, you gotta love that 'stache!

I love Lamar Wells' artwork. He's a very talented guy. Anyways I would also like to say that I am an aspiring Sonic the Hedgehog artist and my "Sky is the Limit" dream is to be a penciler, writer, or both for Sonic the Hedgehog comics. If the Sonic comic artists have any advice or tips for me I would love to hear them!

Joey E. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for writing in, Joey! Our Sonic team of artists have a lot of talent! Many of them took life drawing classes and studied at colleges for comic books, so start there and never stop drawing!

See ya'll next month for the finale of COUNTDOWN TO CHAOS!

COLLECTOR COVER SPOTLIGHT

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #255



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